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FBIS-LAT-90-076 *19 April 1990*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Measure Against U.S. Radio Signal Implemented *[Havana International]* 1
Note on U.S. TV 'Interference' Released at UN *[Havana TV]* 1
USSR's Abalkin Calls Trade Ties 'Satisfactory' *[Havana Radio]* 1
Concludes Visit, Departs *[Havana TV]* 2
Castro News Conference With Japanese Media *[Havana Radio]* 2
1st With Japanse Media Since 1959 *[Tokyo KYODO]* 2
Further on Comments at Conference *[Havana Radio]* 3
Castro Speaks at Botanical Garden Ceremony *[Havana TV]* 3
Chief of Staff Rosales Begins Visit to USSR *[Havana Radio]* 4
1st Construction Group Returns From Nicaragua *[Havana TV]* 4
Arrival of U.S. Ship in Guantanamo Bay Noted *[Havana Radio]* 4

Barbados

Former Ambassador To Head Foreign Ministry *[CANA]* 4

Haiti

UN Delegation Offers Suggestions on Elections *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 4
Port-au-Prince Magistrates' Cartel Sworn In *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5
CATH Leader Accuses Minister of Collusion *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5
New CATH Official Assaulted at Ministry *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 6
Court of Cassation Judge Charles Legrand Dies *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 6

Jamaica

Prime Minister To Undergo Prostate Surgery *[CANA]* 6

MEXICO

Salinas Orders Investigation Into Alvarez Arrest *[NOTIMEX]* 7
Japan's Nakayama Arrives for Global Trade Talks *[Tokyo KYODO]* 7
Meets Salinas, Serra *[Tokyo KYODO]* 7
Foreign Ministry Denies Reports on FMLN Bases *[NOTIMEX]* 8
Guerrilla Bases Ruled Out *[AFP]* 8

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

President Criticizes Contras for Recent Attacks *[San Jose Radio]* 9

El Salvador

Relations With Nicaragua To Normalize *[ACAN]* 9
Human Rights Committee Reports Fewer Violations *[San Salvador Radio]* 9

Guatemala

Government To Close 12 Embassies, 16 Consulates *[ACAN]* 10

Nicaragua

Contra Commander Rules Out Early Disbandment *[ACAN]* 10
Cease-fire Agreed Upon; Dates Under Discussion *[AFP]* 11
Human Rights Group Calls for Disarmament *[Managua Radio]* 11
Ortega, Chamorro Address Media Correspondents *[Managua Radio]* 12
Government, Contras Conclude Official Cease-Fire *[Managua Radio]* 13
Chamorro Envoy on Interior Ministry's Future *[ACAN]* 15

Panama

Aeroperlas Flight With 22 Aboard Crashes in Sea *[Panama City Radio]* 15
Passenger List Disclosed *[Panama City TV]* 15
2 Rescued, 20 Reported Missing *[ACAN]* 15
Former Attorney General Reportedly Shipping Arms *[EL SIGLO 18 Apr]* 16

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Raul Alfonsin Interviewed on Political Parties *[DYN]* 17
Justice Bacque Resigns Over Court Expansion *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 18 Apr]* 18
New Military Industries President Appointed *[TELAM]* 18
Julio Dentone Named New Defense Under Secretary *[TELAM]* 19

Bolivia

Commander Says Troops Only Training in Chapare *[La Paz Radio]* 19
Possible Militarization Concerns Yungas Peasants *[La Paz Radio]* 19
Paz Zamora Notes Progress on Ecological Front *[La Paz Radio]* 19
Paz Zamora To Depart on European Trip 21 Apr *[La Paz TV]* 19

Brazil

Collor Will Not Attend Nicaraguan Inauguration *[Brasilia Radio]* 20
Government Seeks To Improve U.S. Relations *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 18 Apr]* 20
* Ozires on Privatization, Alcohol Crisis *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 14 Mar]* 20

Chile

Army Denies Remarks Attributed to Pinochet *[Santiago Radio]* 23
Rojas States CNI Records at Disposal of Courts *[Santiago Radio]* 24
Minister Correa Evaluates New Administration *[LA TERCERA DE LA HORA 8 Apr]* 24
Editorial Lauds Significance of Bush's Visit *[FORTIN MAPOCHO 7 Apr]* 26
Naval Commanders From 16 Countries To Meet *[Madrid EFE]* 27
Foreign Ministry: No Ambassador to South Africa *[EL MERCURIO 9 Apr]* 27
Spanish Investors Buy More Shares in ENTEL *[Santiago Radio]* 27
New Air Force Promotions, Transfers Detailed *[EL MERCURIO 7 Apr]* 28

Colombia

Drug Lord Escobar Gaviria Draws Up 'Blacklist' *[Hamburg DPA]* 28
Explanations Sought for Cache of Israeli Weapons *[Madrid EFE]* 28

Paraguay

President Rodriguez To Visit Only Taiwan *[HOY 17 Apr]* 29
Minister Says USSR Relations Could Resume *[ABC COLOR 18 Apr]* 29

Venezuela

Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Begins Visit *[CANA]* 30

Cuba

Measure Against U.S. Radio Signal Implemented

PA1804174890 Havana International Service in Spanish 0055 GMT 18 Apr 90

["What the Press Has To Say" feature with Vivian Nunez and Manuel Somoza]

[Text] [Somoza] Good day, friends. The sort of war of the airwaves that has been carried out by the United States against Cuba for approximately 20 days now, entered a new phase today when Cubans began to implement their third measure to counter this war. The measure is to interfere with the medium-wave radio signal that the United States has been broadcasting to Cuba for the past five years.

[Nunez] The current U.S. aggression seeks to transmit daily television signals to Cuba. However, Cuba has managed to completely stop each of their signals and immediately countered the U.S. action by denouncing the U.S. aggression through all diplomatic channels available, neutralizing U.S. signals since they started to enter Cuban airwaves.

[Somoza] Today, it was reported on the front page of the morning newspaper GRANMA that Cuba has also started to stop U.S. radio broadcasts. Cuba had tolerated the radio broadcast for the past five years because it wanted to reach an agreement with the U.S. Government regarding it. We must note that according to the official report, interference with the U.S. radio broadcast has been labeled a test and will only be carried out between 0145 to 0645 every day. Domestic observers have noted that this detail shows that Havana officials are again leaving a door open to a negotiated settlement of this artificial conflict created by Washington.

[Nunez] Also, the morning newspaper TRABAJADORES recently recalled that the main reason for rejecting the U.S.-imposed broadcast to our island is that such a practice violates our national sovereignty. With the radio, in addition to having tolerated it for more than five years, Cuban officials only demand that our country be given the right to carry out reciprocal action toward the United States. Concerning the television signals, Cubans agree and are even willing to exchange television programs.

[Somoza] Cuban media does not comment further on the airwaves confrontation today. This confrontation, nevertheless, has actually contributed toward strengthening our national unity and has made world figures and governments—with most varied and even contrasting political positions—condemn this U.S. aggression against our country. However, at least according to our surveys, domestic media observers consider it unlikely that Washington will change to a more objective or realistic position on this matter soon.

[Nunez] Because of this, when main Cuban media observers commented today on the demonstration staged by more than 200,000 Havana residents on central Avenue 23, they noted that the people showed combativeness. The demonstration was held to honor the 29th anniversary of the date when Fidel Castro proclaimed that our's was a socialist revolution. During the demonstration, people insistently repeated that Cuba had to be alert to counter possible direct U.S. aggression.

Note on U.S. TV 'Interference' Released at UN

FL1804133890 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Cuba has denounced before the United Nations the interference in the transmissions of one of our local television stations by the illegal television transmissions coming from U.S. territory. In a note released at the United Nations, the Cuban permanent mission describes the television interference as an escalation in the electronic war against Cuba, which worsens the situation created by the U.S. television aggression.

USSR's Abalkin Calls Trade Ties 'Satisfactory'

FL1904013590 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2307 GMT 18 Apr 90

[From the "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] Both sides are satisfied with the talks, and regarding our relations, we have confirmed that cooperation between Cuba and the USSR combines two very important elements. On the one hand the traditions that have existed for 30 years are maintained; and on the other, the interaction of our economies and the complementarity of our economies is being expanded. This evaluation was made this afternoon at the Convention Center at the news conference given by Leonid Abalkin, deputy chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers. He also stressed that the relations between the two countries have a renewed spirit, and the means of radically improving the mechanism of economic cooperation between the two nations is being sought.

[Begin Abalkin recording in Russian with simultaneous Spanish translation] I can say that the current Soviet economy cannot develop successfully without the deliveries of Cuban sugar, which are 30 percent of the entire market. There are also other issues we are keeping in mind, and we use them as resources we receive as imports, also keeping Cuba in mind. [sentence as heard] Also, the Cuban economy is oriented towards and needs the deliveries from the USSR—for example, Soviet oil—and these deliveries cannot be (?halted). It is a normal process that is complementary and is the result of many years of cooperation. [end recording]

Abalkin repeated that the rate of trade with Cuba is something he finds satisfactory, and that it is perhaps one of the few examples of the success of his economy and his country's cooperation. He referred to the trade

agreement signed for this year which increases trade by more than eight percent in comparison to 1989.

[Begin Abalkin recording in Russian with simultaneous Spanish translation] This figure should give satisfaction, and for both the Cubans and the Soviets it gives satisfaction and the desire to continue to increase this. This will be expressed positively in our economy, in both the exports and imports of the enterprises in general. [end recording]

He also said that in the talks with the Cubans, future possibilities in tourism and in creating joint enterprises for this were discussed, and the joint use of Cuban medicine was also analyzed. At another point in the new conference held in Havana, Leonid Abalkin reported that an agreement had been reached about prices which satisfied both the Soviets and the Cubans.

Concludes Visit, Departs

FL1904014090 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] A few minutes ago, Leonid Abalkin, deputy chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers, departed for Moscow. Army General Raul Castro, first vice president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, was present to say goodbye to the high-ranking Soviet leader. In a friendly talk, Abalkin said that political realism and understanding had prevailed in the talks with the Cuban side. At the airport, the minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and Abalkin met with Soviet and Cuban officials who had worked on the 20th session of the Cuban-Soviet Intergovernmental Commission for Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation. Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, who had shared the leadership of the commission's work with Abalkin, also attended the departure of the prominent Soviet economist.

Castro News Conference With Japanese Media

FL1804185090 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Last night [date as heard] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro attended a friendly meeting held at the DPRK Embassy in Cuba on the occasion of the 78th birthday of DPRK President Kim Il-song. The reception was hosted by DPRK Ambassador to Cuba Pak Chung-kuk.

During the reception, Kim Chol-min, vice president of the DPRK Science Academy, conveyed to President Castro warm and fraternal greetings from President Kim Il-song.

On 17 April, President Fidel Castro also attended a ceremony during which Japan made a donation to the National Botanical Garden. The donation includes a lawn mower, cultivators, water pumps, and approximately 1,500 flowers and ornamental plants. Fidel expressed appreciation for the donation and described it as a sign of peace that Cuba greatly appreciates.

Along with Japanese Ambassador to Cuba Ryo Kawade, Jorge Lezcano, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Havana City, and Cuban Botanical Garden Director Angela Leyva, the commander in chief planted a small tree of the (bincopiloba) species, a plant that has been known in Asia for thousands of years.

During conversations with those present at the ceremony, Fidel announced that Havana will have other very good recreation centers in the future, including the Metropolitan Park and an expanded version of the old National Aquarium.

After the donation ceremony, Castro held a news conference with Japanese television, newspapers, and news agencies representatives, in which he explained that the recent talks with the Soviet delegation headed by Leonid Abalkin, vice president of the Soviet Council of Ministers, were conducted within a very friendly atmosphere of great mutual understanding. Castro stated that both sides were very willing to contribute to fulfilling their mutual needs. Castro added that ties with the USSR are firm and that they will resist the trials that time and difficulties impose.

As for a possible visit to Japan, Fidel stated that he always has a large work load in Cuba and that he travels abroad only on extraordinary occasions, but that if he receives an official invitation, he will be pleased to honor it.

Regarding a possible visit to the PRC, Castro said that he has been invited to visit that country several times and that he greatly appreciates the invitations, but that in light of the current amount of work he has, he cannot guarantee a visit to the PRC this year.

1st With Japanse Media Since 1959

OW1804133090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1300 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Havana, April 18 KYODO—Cuban President Fidel Castro met with the Japanese press for the first time since the 1959 revolution Tuesday [17 April] evening but indicated he had few expectations for Japanese-Cuban relations in the future, saying Japan is too susceptible to pressure from the United States.

In addition to answering Japanese reporters' questions on possible future Havana-Tokyo relations, the Cuban leader also touched upon the political and economic changes sweeping the Communist Bloc in Eastern Europe and Cuba's tense relations with the United States.

Castro reminded the Japanese reporters that their nation was once the largest consumer of Cuban sugar and remarked chidingly, "We have not forgotten Japan, but Japan has forgotten us."

He would not say whether or not he would attend Emperor Akihito's enthronement ceremony later this year, saying he is besieged with a number of other problems, including radio and television broadcasts directed at Cuba by the U.S.

Asked if Japan could help improve relations between the two American neighbors, Castro said Japan's influence has grown but helping would be very difficult from where it is placed internationally.

He said he could not expect too much from Japanese diplomacy since it is under pressure from the U.S.

Castro, who has become increasingly isolated amid changes in the communist world, insisted that his friendly relations with the Soviet Union would continue while denying the need for free market economics and political pluralism in Cuba.

He said, however, that there had been no concrete developments in negotiations recently aimed at renewing a five-year trade agreement with the Soviet Union.

Regarding drastic changes in East European nations, Castro said Cuba will have to wait until the political situation in these nations has calmed down to know what will happen to its trade relations with Eastern Europe.

Castro called the U.S. "arrogant" after last December's invasion of Panama and its intervention in Nicaragua, and warned that the "danger of an invasion (of Cuba) by the U.S. has grown."

He added, however, that "Cuba is prepared to resist on all fronts."

Further on Comments at Conference

FL1804134090 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1210 GMT 18 Apr 90

[From the "Haciendo Radio" program]

[Text] During his meeting with Japanese journalists in the National Botanical Garden, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro assessed Nicaragua's current situation. He said that the Sandinist Front was the object of the United States' dirty war and a war of attrition. However, he stressed, despite the election results, the Sandinist cause is not lost.

A journalist asked Fidel if he would travel to Japan if that country's government invites him. The commander in chief said that if this occurs, the first thing he would do is express his appreciation for this kind gesture. He added that he could not confirm that he would make the trip because this is a year of much work for Cuba, a year of great tasks. He added that our activity has multiplied and we must take care of many things.

Another correspondent asked if the free market would ever be applied in Cuba. Fidel responded that this is not possible in our country. He said that Third World countries can only progress if they plan their development.

In regard to a multiparty system, the Cuban president explained a united people is necessary to resist the imperialists and he thus was opposed to anything that would divide the people.

When asked how long he would work, Fidel added that if it was necessary, he would work his entire life. I will work as long as I can, he said, in one position or another, as chief or as a rank-and-file soldier. I do not ever want to be deprived of the possibility of fighting for my fatherland, he added.

Castro Speaks at Botanical Garden Ceremony

FL1904010090 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Speech by Cuban President Fidel Castro at a ceremony marking a donation from Japan of plants and equipment to the National Botanical Garden in Havana on 17 April—recorded]

[Text] We are very grateful, since our Botanical Garden, of which we are proud, has been made more beautiful with this [Japanese] garden. Angelita [Leyva, director of the Botanical Garden] talked about the number of visitors—you said 150,000? [Leyva answers: Yes, 150,000.]—that in six months...[rephrases] because it was only six months ago the garden was opened, and already 150,000 Cubans have come to visit it, and over 3,000 foreigners. As she said, it has changed, because the flowers are growing. I am sure that as these plants grow, the garden will be even more beautiful. These are simple things, but they have a profound meaning. Here we have been able to observe the Japanese equipment, these small pieces of equipment which help in human labor.

But as he [Japanese Ambassador to Cuba Ryo Kawade] said, and he recalled here very well, the first Japanese, the Japanese who came to Latin America over many years, were farmers. And they were certainly very well known as farmers. A small colony of Japanese also came here to Cuba, and they were very well known as excellent farmers.

There are descendents of this Japanese colony who are also very well known for their excellence as farmers. I do not think he exaggerated when he said that Japanese farmers are among the best in the world. They are very hardworking people, really very industrious, and take a lot of care over things. I am happy that two Cuban workers have been able to go to Japan to take a four-month course. I think this will contribute to improving this garden. [applause]

Chief of Staff Rosales Begins Visit to USSR

FL1904020090 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2302 GMT 18 Apr 90

[From the "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, chief of the General Staff and vice minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, will arrive today in the USSR on an official visit. TASS has reported that the high-ranking Cuban military chief is responding to an invitation from Army General Mikhail Moiseyev, chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff and first deputy defense minister.

During the four-day visit, Rosales del Toro will meet with the top military leadership of the USSR Armed Forces. The Cuban military chief will also visit a number of military facilities at the (Mikhail Kuse) military academy. Division General Rosales del Toro will be briefed about the work at this advanced education institute. In an air garrison in the Moscow region, the Cuban general will see modern types of Soviet aircraft, and with an armored division will attend exercises of a tank battalion with combat firing.

1st Construction Group Returns From Nicaragua

FL1804134390 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Last night, 120 Cuban construction workers, who are members of the Jose Marti Contingent which builds houses in Bluefields, Nicaragua—an area badly hit by Hurricane Joan—returned to our country.

The Cuban construction workers returned to the fatherland because it is considered that at present there are no adequate working and safety conditions at the place where they worked.

The decision regarding the return of our construction workers to Cuba is provisional and will continue to be so until definitive decisions are made. Possible future decisions include the return of these construction workers to Bluefields if the current prevailing conditions change.

Another group is expected to arrive tomorrow [Thursday, 19 April] and the remainder of the contingent is expected to arrive on Thursday, 19 April. [dates as heard]

Arrival of U.S. Ship in Guantanamo Bay Noted

FL1804132590 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] The explorers of the Cuban Border Brigade have reported the arrival in Guantanamo Bay of a U.S. Navy ship used in the deployment of tanks. The vessel entered Guantanamo Bay waters at 1441 on 15 April.

The vessel is the LST-1179 Newport, which has a displacement capacity of 8,450 tons, a maximum speed of 15 knots, and a range of 2,500 nautical miles. Its crew includes 13 officers and 240 sailors. The ship has a capacity to carry up to 500 tons and can transfer up to 400 combat troops.

A ship such as this one is used in amphibious operations mainly for the transfer and direct deployment of heavy vehicles on assigned landing beaches.

U.S. Navy presence in the region continues to increase with the arrival of the Newport in Guantanamo Bay.

Barbados

Former Ambassador To Head Foreign Ministry

FL1804181290 Bridgetown CANA in English 1720 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 18, CANA—Career diplomat Dr. Peter Laurie is the new head of the Barbados Foreign Service. Laurie, a former ambassador to the United States and the Organisation of American States, has been appointed permanent secretary in the Foreign Ministry with effect from March 1, the government information service said on Tuesday [17 April] night.

Haiti

UN Delegation Offers Suggestions on Elections

FL1804160790 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Excerpts] A UN delegation was in Haiti on an information visit. [passage omitted]

According to the delegation, in addition to the actual voting dates, the electoral calendar should include the dates for voter registration; the period for analyzing the electoral registers; the deadline for presenting candidacies; the free period of publication for the parties, to be paid for by the government; the date the campaign closes; and the dates of the publication of the provisional and definitive results of the first elections and of the runoff elections.

In a coming report, the UN mission will discuss the mechanisms for counting the votes at the polling places.

We must point out that no date has as yet been set for the elections. In any case, the candidates to the presidency and to the senate are not idle. They are beginning to travel to provincial towns. Last weekend, PAIN [National Agricultural and Industrial Party] leader Louis Dejoie toured southern Haiti to strengthen his grassroots support. He met with PAIN party militants in southern Haiti in preparation for the beginning of the electoral campaign.

Other political leaders in southern Haiti and in the Grande Anse area last weekend were Francois Latortue

of the Modelh/PRDH [Democratic Movement for the Liberation of Haiti/Democratic Revolutionary Party of Haiti] and Moyse Senatus of Conacom [National Committee of the Congress of Democratic Movements]. Both were at the Festival of the Sea in Pestel. Senatus announced to us that he will be running for senator for the Department of the Grande Anse.

Port-au-Prince Magistrates' Cartel Sworn In

FL1804184890 Port-au-Prince Radio Antilles Internationales in French 1730 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Twenty-four hours after Port-au-Prince's mayor Claude Baboun resigned, a new cartel made up of Irene Ridore [alias Mrs. Evans Paul, K. Plim], Ernest Sauvignon, and Hugh Sylvain was sworn in this morning at the law courts in the presence of diverse prominent figures such as, among others, Interior Minister Joseph Maxi, Antoine Izmery, Evans Paul of the KID [Confederation for Democratic Unity], and Marineau Etienne of OP-17 [17 September People's Organization]—to name just a few. Mrs. Ridore is cartel president, and Sauvignon and Sylvain are members. [passage omitted]

Merchant Antoine Izmery was warmly applauded by the crowd as he entered the law courts. He said he was there because he had waged the struggle along with his men and that that was why he was present at this swearing-in ceremony. Izmery feels the choice of Mrs. Ridore to head Port-au-Prince City Hall is a good choice.

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Reporter] To conclude, Izmery, why do you think they applauded you so warmly as you entered, and even lifted you onto their shoulders. Why?

[Izmery] Well, maybe they are just happy. In my opinion, it is because they know I am fighting the same battle they are and so maybe they are happy about it, because it is not every day that they see a man with white skin fighting side by side with them that way. [passage omitted]

[Marineau Etienne] Well, my presence here means a lot of things. First of all, as you know, Mrs. Evans Paul, Irene Idore [last name as heard], is a militant who stands at the side of her husband, who has been struggling for a long time. Also, I just had to come. As you know, the members of the cartel are comrades, militants like myself, like Evans Paul, etc. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Does this mean you are going to work hand in hand with Port-au-Prince City Hall?

[Etienne] Friends, I am supposed to help in every way I can—morning, noon, and night; morally; physically, and if necessary using my own money so we can change the face of Port-au-Prince; know what I mean? [end recording]

[Announcer] That was OP-17 official Marineau Etienne. We also interviewed Mrs. Irene Ridore. She considers it a victory.

[Begin recording] [Ridore] For me? A victory. Not a personal victory but a victory for the Haitian people.

[Reporter] We see it took them a while to install this cartel. Why do you think that was?

[Ridore] I do not know. I cannot tell you what happened. All I can tell you is that we felt that there was crooked wheeling and dealing going on. I mean, the Haitian people had asked for something. Maybe they felt the Haitian people should not be in city hall, that it was not the Haitian people's place. Maybe they could not believe we, the sector I represent, could possibly manage to be at the head of city hall. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] What explains all the applause you received this morning as you entered the law courts?

[Ridore] [passage omitted] I guess it means that when the people make a decision, they want a response. I mean, do not think that they were just applauding me, personally! They were applauding the sector that I represent. They trust that sector. [end recording] [passage omitted]

CATH Leader Accuses Minister of Collusion

FL1804235690 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Yves Antoine Richard, current leader of the Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers [CATH], has criticized the position allegedly taken by Social Affairs Minister Claudette Werleigh in the conflict within the CATH, which is split into two groups, one headed by Jean Auguste Mesyeux and the other by Richard. [passage omitted] Addressing the statements made by CATH's former leaders following the incident that occurred on 16 April before the Social Affairs Ministry, Richard says Minister Werleigh cannot declare null and void the general assembly held by the CATH on 18 March, as requested by Jean Auguste Mesyeux, Joseph Manusi Pierre, and Gabriel Miracle because these men are no longer part of the CATH.

Richard says he went to the Social Affairs Ministry on 16 April after receiving a summons from the minister. Accompanying him was a 28-person delegation made up of people from several different organizations affiliated with CATH. Richard says there is no problem within CATH at present, that the problem was solved 18 March when Mesyeux, Miracle, and Pierre were expelled —and nothing will get them back into the CATH, added Richard.

[Begin Richard recording] [passage omitted] Since when has Mesyeux believed in the social affairs minister so much? Since when have these men believed in the courts so much? The workers, peasants, and drivers who make up the CATH decide to expel them and they [not further identified] are going to go ask forgiveness of the Ministry of Social Affairs, which cannot even solve the workers' problems? [passage omitted] The minister has no say in this matter. [passage omitted]

The general assembly held put workers, peasants, and drivers into the CATH's national leadership. And they [not further identified] have been dealt a big blow. These (?lead animals) are no longer around to drag people to Panpra [Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti] congresses! [passage omitted]

Mesyeux is an individual. If he wants to create a political party, he can. We ourselves have never aggressed anyone [words indistinct], because we ourselves think that neither CATH problems nor the nation's problems can be solved through anarchy and violence. [end recording]

Richard also criticized the position Social Affairs Minister Werleigh allegedly took regarding this conflict within the CATH. Richard says the minister's position could hardly be different from that of the expelled CATH leaders, for the minister and the expelled leaders belong to the same political political party. [passage omitted]

New CATH Official Assaulted at Ministry

FL1904000690 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Cajuste Lexius, president of the Metropolitan Area Drivers Union, was assaulted this morning, 17 April. Lexius is the new executive secretary of the CATH [Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers], which has just chosen a new leadership. Lexius says that he was summoned to go to the Social Affairs Ministry this morning to talk to officials there. As he was leaving the ministry, he was attacked by a group of men. They opened a large gash in his head and left him bathed in blood.

We will listen to Lexius, who came here to the radio station all covered with blood. He will tell us what happened.

[Begin recording] [Lexius] [passage omitted] Summoned, we went to the ministry yesterday. I had a car and those men punctured all the tires and broke the windshield. Today I had an appointment with the minister to settle the matter of the car. When we arrived, we saw all the CATH dissidents inside the ministry. We went and took care of our own business, and as I was leaving, the attackers I can identify...[changes thought] Manusi, Gabriel, and all of those were upstairs, but the CATH watchman, Jean-Baptiste Laine, as well as Odilio Augustin...[changes thought] it is they who pointed me out. We were just leaving when...[changes thought] I must tell you that I was not the only person assaulted. Louis Clausel Maxicard too was assaulted. He is administrator and treasurer of the drivers union and an advisor to the CATH leadership. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] And you cannot identify any of the men who attacked you?

[Lexius] I cannot identify the actual aggressors, but as I said, they had guides. Laine and Augustin were with them. I can say it was the CATH dissidents, because they began the aggression back at the Oloffson Hotel. [end recording]

Court of Cassation Judge Charles Legrand Dies

FL1804233790 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Excerpts] The Ministry of Justice informs the public sorrowfully that attorney Charles Legrand, judge on the Court of Cassation, died on Saturday, 14 April. [passage omitted] There will be an official funeral for attorney Legrand 19 April, at 0900 at Sacre Coeur Church in Turgeau. The body may be viewed from 0800 at the Law Courts in Port-au-Prince.

Jamaica

Prime Minister To Undergo Prostate Surgery

FL1904001690 Bridgetown CANA in English 2339 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 18, CANA—Jamaica Prime Minister Michael Manley is to undergo surgery in the next four weeks to remove a malignant prostate nodule, his office said on Wednesday [18 April].

The nodule was discovered during medical tests which were carried out on Manley on Tuesday [17 April] at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Centre in New York. The office said the tests have not shown any malignant spread beyond the lesion and it has been decided that during the next four weeks Manley will be on medication following which he is expected to undergo surgery.

Specialists at the centre as well as Manley's physicians have indicated that the prognosis for full recovery was "excellent."

Manley, 65, underwent three previous surgeries for diverticulitis and his health was an issue in the last general elections. Manley was due home on Wednesday night to attend the official opening of Parliament on Thursday [19 April].

Salinas Orders Investigation Into Alvarez Arrest

FL1804201190 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1942 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Washington, 18 Apr (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican Government today demanded an explanation from the United States regarding the arrest of Dr. Humberto Alvarez Machain, who was apparently kidnapped in Guadalajara because of his ties to the assassination of a U.S. agent. The demand was presented in the form of a strong diplomatic note sent today by the Mexican Embassy in Washington to the U.S. State Department. Embassy spokesmen refused to say who presented the note and who received it. U.S. Justice Department sources acknowledged that they were familiar with the topic but deferred all comments to the State Department, whose spokesmen had not returned telephone calls.

The embassy communique said that at the instructions of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, the Mexican Government has opened an investigation into the possible kidnapping and illegal transport of Dr. Alvarez Machain to the United States. Alvarez Machain, who has been in Los Angeles since 10 April, was kidnapped a week earlier in Mexico and officially arrested at the El Paso airport. The identity of his kidnappers is cloaked in mystery and there are conflicting versions of the events, but no one is dismissing the possibility that the kidnappers were agents of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) operating outside its boundaries.

The embassy [words indistinct] said that the doctor, accused of participating in the torture of U.S. antidrug agent, Enrique Camarena Salazar in Guadalajara five years ago, is responsible for crimes committed on Mexican territory. It added that, according to media reports, Dr. Alvarez Machain may have been illegally detained in Mexico with the participation of U.S. authorities.

Attorney General Richard Thornburgh said on 17 April that he had requested a report on the matter.

Japan's Nakayama Arrives for Global Trade Talks

OW1904050990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0024 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Report by Shiro Yoneyama]

[Text] Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, April 18 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama arrived in Mexico on Wednesday [18 April] for multilateral and bilateral trade talks with both developed and developing countries.

Nakayama will confer with Mexican Commerce Secretary Jaime Serra and Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana before attending a dinner hosted by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari for chief delegates to a ministerial meeting on the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade liberalization talks.

His talks with Serra and Solana are expected to cover a wide range of topics, including Mexico's foreign debt reduction efforts, Japanese investment, and a Mexico-U.S. free trade agreement.

The Salinas government is giving high priority to the global trade meeting of leaders of rich and poor countries which will officially open on Thursday [19 April] at Camino Real, a resort hotel on the Mexican Pacific coast.

The 42-year-old president has been trying to reduce Mexico's foreign debts—about 80 billion dollars—and rebuild an economy battered by falling oil prices.

Nakayama will meet with U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills on Thursday morning before the two join their counterparts from host nation Mexico, the 12-nation European Community (EC), Canada, South Korea, Hong Kong, Malaysia, India, Brazil And about 20 other countries in two days of trade liberalization talks.

Hills told reporters she and Nakayama will discuss both multilateral and bilateral trade matters, including the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) aimed at removing structural barriers to trade and investment in the world's two largest economies.

Officials said representatives of member countries of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which is holding the Uruguay round, will discuss safeguards, subsidies, dispute settlement mechanisms, market access, textiles, agriculture, services, and trade-related investment.

Last week, Canadian Trade Minister John Crosbie proposed to the 106 countries participating in the Uruguay Round that a new world trade group be set up to replace the Geneva-based GATT.

Hills said that the ministerial meeting in Mexico is intended to push the protracted Uruguay Round talks forward so that the round participants can hammer out a conceptual framework by July.

"We are making progress in all (15) areas" under the ongoing GATT round, the chief U.S. trade negotiator said.

Hills acknowledged, however, that the U.S. And the EC are "quite far apart" over farm trade, clouding prospects for a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round by the end of this year as scheduled.

Meets Salinas, Serra

OW1904060890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0450 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, April 18 KYODO—Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari will visit Japan in the near future, the two governments said Wednesday [18 April].

Foreign Ministers Taro Nakayama of Japan and Fernando Solana of Mexico agreed on the presidential trip to Tokyo

during their meeting in the resort of Puerto Vallarta in northeast Mexico, a Japanese spokesman said.

The spokesman said Salinas' trip to Tokyo will take place by this summer but did not give any precise date.

Salinas will be returning a trip to Mexico by Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu last year.

Mexican Commerce Secretary Jaime Serra said in a separate meeting with Nakayama that he will also visit Tokyo soon to seek Japanese investment in Mexico, officials said.

Nakayama met Solana and Serra shortly after his arrival at the resort to attend a meeting of leaders of developed and developing countries on the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade liberalization negotiations Thursday and Friday [19 and 20 April].

The Japanese foreign minister later attended a dinner hosted by Salinas for chief delegates to the two-day session.

The Japanese spokesman quoted Solana as telling Nakayama that Mexico is seriously considering concluding a free trade agreement with the United States in the near future.

Solana also said some Mexican legislators are underscoring the importance of close relations with open economies such as the U.S. and Canada, the spokesman said.

The Mexican minister said a free trade pact between Mexico and the U.S. will benefit other Latin American countries and Japan.

In response to a question from Solana about Japan-U.S. Relations, Nakayama said Kaifu and President George Bush reaffirmed the strong bond between Tokyo and Washington during their meeting in Palm Springs, California, in early March.

Additionally, Nakayama told Solana, "A successful conclusion of the Japan-U.S. Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) will bring about big benefits to third countries, including Mexico."

Nakayama and Serra pledged efforts to help make headway in the protracted Uruguay Round talks being held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), officials said.

Nakayama hosted the previous informal session on the Uruguay Round in Tokyo last November.

Foreign Ministry Denies Reports on FMLN Bases

FL1804130990 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0346 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Apr (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican Foreign Secretariat denied today newspaper reports indicating that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) is going to transfer its military bases from Nicaragua to Mexican national territory.

Mexico has never permitted and will never permit the establishment on its national territory of foreign forces seeking to act against the stability and sovereignty of other countries, said the Foreign Secretariat.

El Salvador's EL DIARIO DE HOY published a report yesterday citing military intelligence sources from that country saying that the FMLN rebels would transfer their bases from Managua to Mexico. According to that report, the electoral defeat suffered by Daniel Ortega's Sandinist government would force the Salvadoran guerrillas to leave Nicaragua before 25 April when Violeta Chamorro assumes the presidency.

The Foreign Secretariat dismissed these reports as false and painful and reiterated the Mexican policy of nonintervention in the internal affairs of other countries.

Likewise, it denied that the FMLN is trafficking weapons by way of the Mexican Yucatan Peninsula, as insinuated by the alleged military intelligence sources from El Salvador. It was stressed that those reports were already denied even by FMLN spokespersons.

The Mexican Foreign Secretariat doubted that the Salvadoran Government is the source of those reports because that country's own president, Alfredo Cristiani, said they were not official reports.

Guerrilla Bases Ruled Out

PA1804122190 Paris AFP in Spanish 0248 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Apr (AFP)—The Mexican Government "has never permitted and will never permit" the establishment on its territory of foreign forces seeking to destabilize other countries, a Mexican Foreign Secretariat communique issued today, Tuesday [17 April], has stated.

Reports in the foreign press, "particularly from El Salvador," indicate that the Salvadoran guerrillas plan to tranfer their bases to Mexico. These reports also state that there is ongoing arms trafficking to the Salvadoran insurgents by way of the Yucatan Peninsula. Both charges are "false and fraudulent," the official communique states.

The Mexican Foreign Secretariat questions whether these reports, which cite Salvadoran military intelligence sources, are factual, since Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani himself recently emphasized the "close and cordial relations that exist between the two governments," the official Mexican note says.

Costa Rica

President Criticizes Contras for Recent Attacks

PA1804161490 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] President Oscar Arias Sanchez has openly deplored the fact that there are still groups of people in Nicaragua who believe that they can obtain power through the use of weapons.

Arias Sanchez believes that the contras continue to delay the regional peace process to the point that, just a few days before the scheduled transfer of government in Nicaragua, they continue to launch military attacks.

President Oscar Arias Sanchez has said that the contras are in no way helping Violeta Barrios de Chamorro's government, the Nicaraguan people, or the consolidation of democracy in Nicaragua.

Arias Sanchez has noted that it is inconceivable that just before the transfer of power in Nicaragua takes place, the contras are continuing their military raids in Nicaragua. The president said that Daniel Ortega has told the entire world that he is willing to surrender power since he has conceded the elections, and is therefore compelled to turn over the government. However, President Oscar Arias Sanchez has explained that those who pull the strings for the contra forces and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front of El Salvador should compromise and use their influence and moral authority to stop the military raids.

Arias Sanchez added that the existence of the contras was never a solution to any problem. The president said: I have always said that the existence of the contras was not a solution to any problem. They have always been a problem. Today after the elections, the contras show evidence that they continue to be a problem, Arias Sanchez added.

Arias Sanchez explained that if a new government has won the elections and the opposition assumes power, new opportunities will open up for Nicaragua. Arias Sanchez asked himself: What is the point of the recent military activities by the contras? President Oscar Arias Sanchez has criticized the contra leaders who continue to launch military attacks in Nicaragua, when the people of Nicaragua are longing for peace.

El Salvador

Relations With Nicaragua To Normalize

PA1904002590 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2323 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] San Salvador, 18 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Salvadoran Foreign Minister Manuel Pacas said today that diplomatic and commercial relations between Nicaragua and El Salvador, suspended in November 1989, will be normalized when the new Nicaraguan Government is sworn in on 25 April.

The foreign minister said that President Alfredo Cristiani has confirmed his attendance at the inauguration as a symbol of the Salvadoran Government's desire to maintain good relations with the new Nicaraguan Government, led by conservative Violeta Chamorro.

El Salvador suspended relations with Nicaragua on 26 November 1989 after the Army discovered a shipment of weapons that, according to the military, originated in Managua and was destined for the Salvadoran guerrillas.

Pacas said during a news conference that the outgoing government in Nicaragua, presided over by Sandinist Daniel Ortega, has yet "to give the smallest sign that it is willing to restore relations with El Salvador, even though we were attacked."

The foreign minister also said that the discovery of several arms shipments for the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), reportedly coming from Nicaragua and confiscated in Honduras last week, "would not affect in the least" its relations with the new Nicaraguan Government.

"The gunrunning is being investigated by ONUCA," the UN Observer Group in Central America, the minister stated.

Human Rights Committee Reports Fewer Violations

PA1904045090 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Members of the unofficial Human Rights Commission today charged that Salvadorans are still being killed and arrested throughout the country. The organization reports that in the first three months of the year, 247 persons have been arbitrarily arrested, 46 persons are missing, and 368 civilians have been illegally executed. According to members of the commission, most of these cases are of a political nature. The commission has also charged that the Salvadoran Armed Forces are responsible for the deaths of 333 people.

The commission has also denounced five executions by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]. It has been unable to establish responsibility in the death of 16 persons.

Regarding missing persons, the commission holds the Armed Forces responsible for 16 of these cases and is holding the Atlacatl Battalion directly responsible for eight of them. The commission has characterized the human rights situation in El Salvador as alarming and has asked the government to suspend this kind of activity.

Regarding arbitrary arrests, 229 such arrests were made by the Salvadoran Armed Forces, while 18 arrests were made by the FMLN. Seven other arrests involved common crimes.

In comparing the first three months of 1989 with the first three months of 1990, the commission reports that there has been some improvement in respect for human rights, but stressed that human rights violations are still commonplace. Guiller Montenegro comments on this situation:

[Begin Montenegro recording] According to our records, there were more human rights violations during the first three months of 1989 than during the first three months of 1990, but this does not mean that our country is no longer witnessing grave human rights violations. We have been saying that when a person is murdered, disappears, or is arbitrarily arrested, human rights are being violated. We have to recall that the special UN commissioner has said that human rights keep being violated in El Salvador.

The violations during the first three months of this year have been fewer than last year. As an institution we could say that we are somewhat pleased with the fact that our records show a decrease in violations. There has been a slight improvement. However, we cannot say that the human rights situation in El Salvador has really improved, because we believe that the basic rights of the Salvadoran people are being violated. [end recording]

The members of the Human Rights Commission have urged the Armed Forces to suspend the intimidation campaign it has been waging to prevent the Salvadoran workers from carrying out a demonstration on 1 May.

Guatemala

Government To Close 12 Embassies, 16 Consulates

PA1804180690 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2105 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 17 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemala has closed 12 embassies and 16 of its consulates in Latin America, Asia, Europe, and Africa due to economic problems and on the grounds that the country has "no voice or vote" in the United Nations, owing to its debt with that world organization, Foreign Minister Ariel Rivera announced today.

At a news conference the foreign minister said that the embassies due to be closed are in Austria, Bolivia, Paraguay, United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, Thailand, Korea, Portugal, Switzerland, India, Saudi Arabia, and the Dominican Republic.

According to Rivera, the measure is also due to a "total reshuffling in the diplomatic corps."

The foreign minister said that the government has decided to leave an ambassador and a secretary in the diplomatic missions of Mexico, Washington, Panama, France, and all the South American countries.

The minister explained that the measures do not signify a change in the relations with those countries, noting that the reasons were "economic rather than diplomatic."

He said that as a result of the country's economic crisis, Guatemala owes money to the United Nations and, because of this, it has "no voice or vote." Rivera did not elaborate on the debt.

"As long as we remain insolvent, our UN ambassador will not participate in General Assembly activities," Rivera said.

According to diplomatic sources, Guatemala not only owes annual fees to United Nations, but also to several of its member organizations.

Nicaragua

Contra Commander Rules Out Early Disbandment

PA1804210990 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1930 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Managua, 18 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Contra Commander "Ruben" (Oscar Salvabarro) warned today in Managua that his fighters will be forced to fire "Redeye" type missiles if the Sandinist Air Force continues bombing his troops. Commander "Ruben" heads the contra delegation at the talks that began on 17 April and continue today in Managua with the top command of the Sandinist People's Army (EPS) to reach a cease-fire in Nicaragua.

During a news conference held in Managua, the rebel commander denounced the fighting that has taken place during the past few days in Nicaragua, saying that it was "caused by the Sandinist military aggression against us and we have to defend ourselves." "The latest attacks launched by the Sandinist National Liberation Front have involved the use of heavy artillery and Soviet-made MI-24, MI-25, and MI-17 helicopters," he added.

The rebel military chief said that the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] has "Redeye" missiles "with which we could very easily down those helicopers, but have not done so in order to contribute to the peace process." According to this rebel commander, the contras do not want to be acccused of "attacking," but he added "we are not going to let them kill us either."

"If a cease-fire agreement is not reached, and the attacks continue, we may soon down a Sandinist helicopter since they are using them," Salvabarro warned. "Ruben" told ACAN-EFE that there are approximately 14,000 armed contras in Nicaragua and 2,000 war disabled in the Honduran camps.

Last night Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega criticized the contra migration en masse to Nicaragua from their camps in Honduras. According to Ortega, rebels "in the

thousands are moving close to towns in northern and central Nicaragua, something that does not constitute a normal and peaceful transfer of power," as scheduled for 25 April.

"The voice of God and the Nicaraguan people call for the contras to demobilize before 25 April, and there must not be any additional delay tactics," Ortega said last night in a Managua temple. As for the demobilization of the contras deployed in nine out of Nicaragua's 16 departments, Commander "Ruben" said that "General (Joaquin) Cuadra (chief of the EPS general staff) and the Nicaraguan Government must understand that (the disbandment) is something that cannot be achieved before 25 April." "To have a demobilization, we must first have reconciliation among Nicaraguans, and that can only happen one step at a time," he added.

According to the rebel chief, president-elect Violeta Chamorro is the person who can disarm the Sandinists and the contras. "Reconciliation among Nicarguans begins with the disarmament of the EPS and RN troops, although it must be done in stages since it cannot happen right away," Commander "Ruben" noted. "The contras will begin to demobilize and disarm themselves when we know what the EPS structure will be," the contra leader stated flatly.

Cease-fire Agreed Upon; Dates Under Discussion

PA1904033190 Paris AFP in Spanish 0151 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Managua, 18 Apr (AFP)—The Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) and the Nicaraguan Government reached an agreement on Wednesday afternoon on a cease-fire and the contras' entry into five security zones where they will disarm, but "the only thing remaining is to set the dates to begin the process," said Sandinist negotiator Julio Icaza, who is attached to the Foreign Ministry.

During a recess of the meetings being held in this capital by RN representatives and the outgoing and incoming Nicaraguan governments, Icaza said that the contra delegation has asked for "some time" to study the proposal on the timetable submitted by the Sandinists.

Nevertheless, the official asserted that "agreements have already been reached on the declaration of the cease-fire and the entry of the armed contra contingents into five zones, which were also delimited."

Nonetheless, the government representative declined to point out the exact location and size of the enclaves to be occupied by the anti-Sandinists once the overall agreement is signed, and in which they will surrender their weapons in the presence of UN delegates.

In this regard, Icaza noted that "we may perhaps delay for quite some time, because the technical aspects have to be appropriately established to preclude interpretations." He added that "we will not leave here until we work out a peace agreement."

During the recess of the meeting, which is being held at the OAS offices, the area near the offices was occupied by Sandinist sympathizers who demanded the surrender of the rebels, describing them as "turncoat murderers."

On the first floor of the OAS building, several contra leaders smiled before the demonstrators while displaying some dollar bills in their hands, which further fueled the wrath of the approximately 100 people, who demanded their "unconditional" surrender.

"We do not want any guardsmen, we do not want any guardsmen," said the demonstrators, while Aristides Sanchez of the RN Directorate displayed a placard at the building that read, "Not even Humberto," an allusion to General and Defense Minister Humberto Ortega.

However, Icaza shrugged off the wrath of the demonstrators, pointing out: "It is difficult to explain that peace also carries a price that must be paid."

Human Rights Group Calls for Disarmament

PA1804230990 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1950 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Communique issued by the National Commission for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights, CNPPDH, in Managua on 18 April]

[Text] We denounce before the world the counterrevolution's criminal intention of refusing to demobilize as agreed upon at Toncontin, and as ratified by the five Central American presidents at Montelimar. The consequences of this counterrevolutionary behavior are easily predicted if we remember the terrorist acts that during 10 years of war have bathed the Nicaraguan soil with blood. This is why, in the face of the setback the contra demobilization agreements are undergoing in our country, and the danger this means, the CNPPDH joins the people's clamor and strongly demands immediate compliance through the disarmament and demobilization of the counterrevolutionary troops.

There are no more pretexts to wage war. The U.S. Government, as a party that is more involved in the current situation, should order these forces, which are their forces since they organized, directed, and financed them, to demobilize and disarm. There are no more pretexts to continue backing and directing the contras, because the people voted against the war on 25 February. There are no more pretexts to continue murdering, kidnapping, and mutilating Nicaraguans, because there is an elected president who will take office in a few days, and she has the Yankees' approval. Pentagon gentlemen, there are no more pretexts for war. Disarm and demobilize your men on the payroll, because we Nicaraguans have a right to life, peace, and a bright and hopeful future.

When the peace of a nation and the life of its citizens are at stake, there is no room for negotiation, only room for defense. That is why, as an organization in charge of

safeguarding the respect for human rights, which include the right to peace and the right to life, we demand that the new government, led by Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, complies with the commitments undertaken with the Nicaraguan people and demonstrates all the needed energy to attain absolute demobilization of the counterrevolution before 25 April.

Ortega, Chamorro Address Media Correspondents

PA1804220390 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2000 GMT 18 Apr 90

[News conference by President Daniel Ortega and President-elect Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, with domestic and foreign correspondents; place not given—live]

[Text] [Ortega] Good afternoon, Nicaraguan brothers, domestic and foreign correspondents. Today at noon I met with President-elect Violeta de Chamorro. We have been analyzing the country's situation. First we talked about the transfer of power on 25 April. We were discussing a couple of details. I would once again like to clearly state what I have been saying since 26 February; that is, on 25 April there will be a transfer of power. On 25 April I will hand over the presidential sash to Mrs. Violeta Barrios de Chamorro and she will then become president of the country. This will be done independently of whether the war in our country continues or has ended.

I would like to add that we have also had conversations about the talks which began here yesterday among Nicaraguans who have confronted one another in the military arena, and about the fact that on 25 February the Nicaraguan people voted for peace, for an end to the war. The talks began yesterday and are continuing today. These talks are aimed at putting an end to the war, at ensuring that the peace agreements will be respected, and that the National Resistance [RN] will demobilize and disarm.

Today is the right time to call on everyone to ensure that the agreements will be respected, and that by 25 April, peace and the demobilization and disarmament of the counterrevolution, or National Resistance—their official name—will be guaranteed. In doing so, the outgoing and incoming governments, His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, the United Nations, the OAS, and above all, the members of the RN, will be contributing to the end of the war and bringing peace to our country, and they will ensure that on 25 April the transfer of power takes place in peaceful conditions, without conflicts. That is what all the Nicaraguan people want.

Today we wish to make a firm and patriotic call for these agreements to be reached, and we hope that these agreements will bring tranquility to all. We hope the reconciliation will become a reality in our country.

We talked about these and other issues, but I have mentioned the two most important matters which Dona Violeta and I discussed. These matters have to do with the transfer of power. I reiterate, independent of the situation existing in our country, there will be a transfer of power on 25 April.

I have said that if at that moment there is an atmosphere of violence, if the war continues, and if no agreements are reached, then the climate will not be ideal. However, we do have an armed force that will guarantee the necessary conditions for normalcy, so that this transfer of power will take place on 25 April without problems. They will also guarantee that all our foreign guests, politicians and presidents, will be guaranteed the necessary safety that the Armed Forces, the Army, and the authorities of the Interior Ministry can give them. This we can guarantee, whatever the situation is on 25 April. What is important is that the contras, the resistance, be disarmed and contribute to peace. What is important is that they be in the process of demobilization or already be demobilized by that day. The 25th day of April will be an historic day for all the Nicaraguan people.

[Chamorro] I am going to respond to the president, to Daniel. I call him Daniel; I have always called him Daniel. I agree that the boys, the contras, or the resistance, as they are called, are Nicaraguans, and they want to sign the agreement this afternoon. What all of us in Nicaragua want—and I believe that all of you reporters, most of whom are Nicaraguan, want this too—is peace and reconciliation. This is something that I called for during my campaign, during the UNO [National Opposition Union] campaign.

That is why we are here. Here is Daniel, here is Violeta, and we will continue to see each other very often. You and the members of the resistance are Nicaraguans and are allowed to be here in Nicaragua.

I think this signing is a very beautiful and historic event. The boys, the Nicaraguans of the resistance, are signing in front of Cardinal Obando and the UN offices. This is the beginning of the realization of a dream that Daniel and I have of peace, forgiveness, and reconciliation in our homeland. We have endured many years of suffering and will have a clean slate from now on.

I want to tell you a secret that Daniel told me in order for you to announce this in all your.... [changes thought] You are from other places, I imagine. The secret is that he is going to tell Mrs. Leonor Arguello de Hupper to lift the visa restrictions so that all Nicaraguans abroad and all U.S. citizens wishing to see the inauguration, when I will receive the presidential sash, may come here without any problems.

[Ortega] Yes. After the expulsion of Ambassador Melton, we suspended the free issuance of visas to U.S. citizens. In other words, North Americans could freely enter our country without the need for a visa. [sentence as heard] You will recall the time when a crisis arose and Ambassador Melton was expelled. I have discussed this matter with Violeta. She was concerned about this and I will issue instructions today so that U.S. citizens will be

allowed to enter our country with [as heard] a visa. In other words, they do not have to go to a consulate in the United States to get a visa, but will be able to come to Nicaragua freely without a visa.

[Reporter] Mr. President. Does today's signing of the cease-fire agreement between the rebels and the EPS mean, let us say, that the demobilization of the rebels may be postponed?

[Ortega] The agreement is complete. That is, when we talk about their concentration at some given places, when we talk about a cease-fire, we are also talking about the disarmament, because the demobilization implies everything. This is a process that must have a deadline. The deadline that we, the Central American presidents, have set is 25 April. We agreed that by 25 April this entire process must be completed. This would be combined with the cease-fire. At the same time, steps would be taken for their disarmament and relocation to the places of their choosing with the respective [word indistinct] guarantees.

The ideal is to have this process culminate by the 25th. We want to appeal today to those who are negotiating to contribute peacefully toward this and to finalize an exact date for the demobilization process.

[Reporter] The contras have said that this is not possible and that they will adhere solely to the Toncontin agreements, which they signed with the representatives of Dona Violeta.

[Ortega] I am talking about what is being discussed at the negotiating table at this moment, not about statements they may have made to the press yesterday. You know that there are many items of propaganda manipulated by the press. However, progress is being made at the negotiating table. We wish to make an appeal at this time so that the progress which has been made will not be hindered, and a firm agreement will be reached this afternoon or tonight. We said 25 April and the ideal thing would be to keep this deadline. This way we Nicaraguans will be certain that the war will end and that the contras, who are at this moment threatening towns like Esteli, since there are over 2,000 contras in the vicinity of Esteli, Condega, Yali, (Telpaneca) and all these towns and there are also 900 contras near Jinotega and there are many contras moving through the highways in the area of Chontales, will move to certain areas, disarm, settle and work as citizens of our country. [sentence as received]

[Reporter] Mr. President, the contra leaders clearly said this morning that there will be no demobilization before 25 April. However, they fully agree with a cease-fire, and will turn over their weapons to the new government. Therefore, what will happen?

[Ortega] The cease-fire is not the problem; there have been many cease-fires on many occasions. The problem here is complying with disarmament, and we must note that the UN group, ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America], has a deadline. The group cannot stay here indefinitely waiting for disarmament. There is a deadline and this was clearly stated by ONUCA in the talks.

Therefore, we are calling for a firm agreement and the establishment of a deadline for the demobilization process. The ideal thing would be for the deadline to be 25 April, the date agreed upon by the Central American presidents, so that the transfer of power may be held peacefully.

[Reporter] Mr. President, will all the armed groups be disarmed?

[Ortega] This is important because the disarmament of the people, who have felt threatened by the contras' activities, will occur when the contras' disarmament occurs. We want the weapons to be controlled by those forces stipulated in the Constitution, meaning the Army and the police. It is also true that the weapons given to the people to defend the country should be collected to the extent that the contras are disarmed. Thank you.

Government, Contras Conclude Official Cease-Fire

PA1904133290 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1225 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Cease-fire agreement between the Nicaraguan Government and the Nicaraguan Resistance "under the auspices of" Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo; signed in Managua on 18 April]

[Text] 1. Through this document, the government of the Republic of Nicaragua, duly represented by Defense Minister General Humberto Ortega Saavedra and the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN], and duly represented by Oscar Sovalbarro, aka Commander "Ruben," chief negotiator, and Aquilino Ruiz Robleto, aka Commander (Minita), chief negotiator of the Wenceslao Aviles Central Front, agree to formally establish an effective and definite cease-fire as of 1200 [1800 GMT] on 19 April 1990 that will be strictly complied with by both parties.

2. As of the date of the effective and definite cease-fire, the RN and the government of the Republic of Nicaragua commit themselves to put an end to all types of military hostilities, as well as any other type of operations that could lead to a resumption of the hostilities.

3. For the purpose of guaranteeing strict compliance with the effective and definite cease-fire, the staff of the UN Observer Group of Central America, ONUCA, and His Most Reverend Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo will verify effective compliance with the cease-fire according to the attached timetable.

4. To make it possible for ONUCA and His Most Reverend Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo to verify the effective and definite cease-fire, security zones are established in the areas that were previously agreed upon according to the attached addendum.

5. Both ONUCA and His Most Reverend Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo will adopt the necessary measures to verify the effective and definite cease-fire.

6. During the period between 19 and 21 April, the government of the Republic of Nicaragua commits itself to withdraw its military, paramilitary, and security forces from the security zones and any adjacent areas 20 km from the borders of those zones, except for certain specific towns where there will be a minimal police force to maintain order, which will be verified by ONUCA and Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, and in the exclusion areas specified in the addendum. Once these forces have withdrawn, the government of the Republic of Nicaragua commits itself to not mobilize any troops from its military, paramilitary, or security forces 20 km from the borders of the security zones or to fly over such areas with military planes or helicopters, except in the corridors established in the addendum.

7. The withdrawal of those forces from the security zones and adjacent areas will be verified by ONUCA and by Cardinal Obando y Bravo, who will also control the relocation of those forces in other locations.

8. Effective on the date of this agreement, all RN fighters who are in Nicaragua will move without delay to the security zones to proceed with the various phases of the demobilization process.

9. Military, paramilitary, and security forces of the Nicaraguan Government will not obstruct the free movement of the RN fighters heading to the security zones.

10. RN groups are authorized to communicate with each other and move from one zone to another with ONUCA's coordination.

11. The Nicaraguan Government commits itself to respect the freedom, security, and physical and moral integrity of RN members and their families.

12. The CIAV [International Commission for Support and Verification] will transport and deliver humanitarian aid to RN troops and their relatives in security zones.

13. General services regularly offered in the security zones and adjacent areas will continue to be offered.

14. The Nicaraguan Government and the RN, will cooperate with CIAV, ONUCA, and His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo in complying with their duties.

15. His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, who witnessed this agreement, has agreed to solemnly announce this bilateral cease-fire agreement, and to provide his cooperation and assistance during all phases of the demobilization process in verifying the effective and definitive cease-fire by the parties involved, the vigilance of the delimited security zones where the RN forces will concentrate, and in any other humanitarian or social mission derived from the aforementioned activities to the extent of his capabilities.

Finally, His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo expresses his satisfaction over the patriotic decisions taken and joins the signatories in thanking God for his assistance in enlighting the parties involved.
Issued in Managua on 18 April 1990
[Signed] General Humberto Ortega Saavedra, on behalf of the government of the Republic of Nicaragua.
[Signed] Oscar Savalbarro (Commander Ruben) and Aquilino Luis Robleto (Commander Minita) on behalf of the RN.
[Signed] His Excellency Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo

On behalf of President-Elect Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, the following signatories support this agreement for an effective and definitive cease-fire in all its parts, and express their commitment to fully comply with it effective 25 April: Antonio Lacayo, Carlos Hurtado, Luis Sanchez, Leopoldo Navarro, Roberto Ferrey.

We also have an addendum to this agreement signed by both parties early this morning. It is a calendar of activities to be carried out during the process of demobilization for the RN forces.
1. Signing of the effective and definitive cease-fire agreement between the Nicaraguan Government and the RN: 18 April 1990.
2. Day on which this cease-fire will go into effect: 0000 hours [time as heard] on 19 April.
3. Withdrawal of the military forces of the Sandinist People's Army, the security forces, and paramilitary groups from security areas and nearby places: 21 April.
4. Beginning of the movement of RN forces to security areas: 19 April after 0000 hours [time as heard].
5. Beginning of the CIAV delivery of humanitarian aid to RN troops who are in security areas: 19 April beginning at 0000 hours [time as heard].
6. Verification of Nicaraguan Government troops by ONUCA and Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo: 22 April.
7. Arrival in the country of the initial ONUCA peacekeeping forces: 22 April.
8. ONUCA trip to security areas: 22 April.
9. Concentration of all RN forces in security areas: 25 April.

We will now read the document on demilitarized zones:
1. A demilitarized zone is a 20-kilometer area inside the security zone.
2. There will be no artillery or offensive weapons of any kind or militia, paramilitary, or security forces inside the demilitarized zones.
3. Exclusion zone: For verification purposes, this zone includes installations and brigade commands inside the 20 kilometers of the demilitarized zone. This zone is frozen under the control of ONUCA, one or two RN members, the EPS [Sandinist People's Army], and His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo.
In Zone 1: San Rafael and Las Cuchillas

In Zone 2: Waslala

In Zone 3: Rio Blanco

In Zone 4: Santo Domingo

In Zone 5: Nueva Guinea

4. Policemen in towns inside the demilitarized zones will be unarmed.

5. The following air corridors are hereby established:

A. Managua, Ocotal, Wiwili.

B. Managua, San Pedro del Norte, Puerto Cabezas

C. Managua, Juigalpa, Bluefields

D. Managua, San Carlos, San Juan del Norte

6. Coordination Groups are hereby established to solve security problems that will coordinate air and ground traffic through ONUCA.

Chamorro Envoy on Interior Ministry's Future

PA1904020390 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0045 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Yamales (Honduras), 18 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Leopoldo Navarro, Nicaraguan President-elect Violeta Chamorro's envoy to the contra demobilization ceremony in Honduras, said today that one of the new government's first tasks will be "to eliminate the Sandinist state security organization and the Interior Ministry."

Navarro warned that "the Sandinist Army will also be affected by the transfer of power. It will not be eliminated overnight, but it will be reduced to a minimum."

Commander Tomas Borge, one of the most influential politicians in the Sandinist regime and a founding member of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], is in charge of the Nicaraguan Interior Ministry.

Navarro said, without giving details, that "we feel confident that Sandinism will disappear from Nicaragua within two years."

Navarro and Roberto Ferrey are two of Chamorro's main negotiators in the talks being held with the contras to carry out their demobilization and disarmament.

"I believe that only a police force should be left in Nicaragua, and it should be comprised of contras, because they are also Nicaraguan citizens," Chamorro's assistant emphasized.

The politicians said that the new government's pledge to the Nicaraguan Army is that "it will respect military structures, but it will not keep the leaders."

Navarro addressed crippled fighters and their relatives in Yamales and said: "You must trust us. The 10 gloomy years of Sandinist dictatorship will end once and for all."

Panama

Aeroperlas Flight With 22 Aboard Crashes in Sea

PA1804173990 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1704 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] An Aeroperlas Airline flight was involved in an accident this morning and is reported missing with 22 persons aboard, including crew.

Reliable sources report that the aircraft, a DH Twin Otter, took off at 1109 this morning from Contadora and apparently crashed into the sea in the southern sector of Contadora Island. Rescue operations were initiated immediately from the island and in the air with a helicopter and aircraft of the National Aeronautics Service [Servicio Aereo Nacional].

Unofficial reports indicate that, apparently, two passengers have been rescued. One of them was identified as Mrs. Ana (de Lero), who was badly bruised but out of danger, and an unidentified minor.

Passenger List Disclosed

PA1804183290 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1740 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] We have the complete list of passengers traveling aboard the Aeroperlas Twin Otter airplane involved in an accident three km south of Contadora Island. The plane left Paitilla Airport at approximately 1109. Here is the list of passengers: Vivian Carter, Zoila de Tunon, Melissa Valdes, Joanie Yaoseny, Francisco Rojas, Saturnino Lorenzo, Damaris Vergara, Natividad de la Rosa, Robertino Vasquez, Francisco Gonzalez, Luis Vasquez, Abisilina Samaniego, Ana Haig, Carl Haig, Lisa Larlo, Ricardo Haitic, Ferdinand Dinot, Odili Dinot, Junior Dinot, and Juan Coleman.

All of them have been taken to various hospitals in Panama City. The injuries include bone fractures and bruises. In general, the passengers' condition is not serious.

2 Rescued, 20 Reported Missing

PA1804211390 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2008 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Panama City 18 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Twenty persons disappeared into the water today when a twin-engined plane crashed into the sea near Contadora Island in the Pacific Ocean, about 70 km off the Panamanian coast.

Official sources confirmed that only two passengers, a woman and her son, were rescued following the accident. The accident took place at 1605 GMT, shortly after take-off from the island, and is blamed on an engine malfunction.

Sources at Contadora had previously stated, erroneously, that all the passengers had been rescued and taken to Panama City.

Former Attorney General Reportedly Shipping Arms

PA1804154290 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 18 Apr 90 p 19

[Report by Aneldo Arosemena]

[Text] Olmedo Miranda, who was attorney general of the nation for 11 years during the Torrijos-Noriega regime, was transporting a large shipment of weapons of various calibers from Cuesta de Piedra, in Bugaba District, to the community of Los Pozos in Volcan, Chiriqui on the morning of 14 April.

A confidential source told Blas Julio of EL SIGLO, that Miranda conveyed this shipment through several persons, including two area doctors. The same source disclosed that this shipment of military material could very well be part of a well-established plan by antigovernment groups to destabilize the government of President Guillermo Endara Galimany.

Olmedo Miranda was appointed attorney general by Torrijos to "cover up" cases of political crimes that occurred in the wake of the 11 October 1968 coup d'etat. He remained in that post for 11 years.

During that period, Miranda, who is nicknamed "Captain Chichita," took care of covering up the crimes of Floyd Britton, Hector Gallegos, Marlene Mendizabal, Jorge Falconett, and Jorge Camacho, among many other still unresolved crimes.

Miranda was appointed minister of government and justice by the subsequent dictator in 1989. He held that post for a short period of time and was replaced by Dr. Renato Pereira, who apparently had more "influence" with the dictator than the old and discredited Capt. Chichita.

Argentina

Raul Alfonsin Interviewed on Political Parties

PY1804192590 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish
0048 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Apr (DYN)—Radical Civic Union (UCR) President Raul Alfonsin today stated his opposition to the pardon that President Saul Menem is considering granting to former junta commanders and to Montonero [former urban guerrilla movement] leader Mario Firmenich. Alfonsin also urged the government "to contemplate the worker's opinions" when regulating the right to strike.

Alfonsin granted an extensive interview to DYN in which he said that the possibility of reaching an agreement with the UCD [Democratic Centrist Union] is "practically nil." Alfonsin said, however, that the UCR "must talk with all sectors."

Alfonsin said he was skeptical about the possibility of an agreement with the government. After reiterating that his party will "insist" on the need to reach such an agreement, Alfonsin said: "I am under the impression that the government does not want to reach an agreement."

Asked about his party's position between the right and the statist sectors, the former president said that the UCR, the largest opposition party, "represents the third alternative that we must follow; we must not side with Alsogaray or Ubaldini."

Alfonsin stressed "we believe in walking along a different path, a path that contemplates the social aspects all democracies must contemplate, but one that is also capable of making an effort to work together because society has finally realized the seriousness of the crisis."

The former president characterized the lack of social and military policies as "a surrender" and cited as examples the 7 October 1989 pardons, the imminent pardon of those former commanders who have been sentenced to prison for human rights violations, and the pardon of Montonero leader Mario Firmenich.

Alfonsin said: "Everything the government is doing (amnesty and pardons) on the military question represents a surrender."

"We should have implemented a policy to raise the prestige of the Armed Forces and to place the institution where it belongs among the other national institutions. This should have been done through various successive governments," Alfonsin said.

The former president said Latin American political parties "should carefully watch" recent events in the region, where the people not only voted against incumbent governments they also voted against political parties.

"I have personally supported the idea that South American political parties should face the problem by agreeing on popular programs," Alfonsin said.

The former president added: "Otherwise I am very much afraid that in the near future we will experience a type of restricted or conditioned democracy."

Asked to comment on the upcoming regulation of the public workers' right to strike, Alfonsin demanded the government "contemplate the worker's opinions without changing their constitutional right, such as the program we had in the past."

Regarding the pardons, Alfonsin said: "They have closed the case of the so-called painted-face rebels. These people were allowed to preach fascism in fascist journalistic programs that were designed to offend political leaders, particularly those belonging to the UCR, and particularly me, who was crudely insulted."

"This of course affected all sectors of the Armed Forces, some of which have more radical positions than those who rebelled during our administration. These incidents affect all armed institutions and generate highly negative conflicts," Alfonsin said. The president then added: "This is a real surrender that history will judge."

Asked whether the action of the so-called painted-faces in politics benefits the democratic system, Alfonsin warned that "it is inconceivable that neo-nazism and neo-fascism could benefit the system. In Germany and in Italy these organizations are considered anti-democratic and do not benefit the system with their adventurous and messianic preachings that have nothing to do with the needs or the dreams of the Argentine people."

Regarding the recent promulgation of a law providing for the increase in the number of Supreme Court members, the former president reaffirmed the terms of the UCR statement made yesterday that it considers the law to be an "attack on the judicial branch's independence."

When asked about the differences between Menem's initiatives and those projected by the UCR government, Alfonsin said that "they are absolutely different."

"We have never thought of having a UCR court. Any person of good faith must admit that it was a pluralistic court where pluralism was recognized. The idea was to find outstanding and important jurists, without considering their origin," he said, and recalled that "we offered the supreme court presidency to Italo Luder."

Pointing out the differences, he said that his government "did not have a majority in the Senate, and therefore it can never be supposed that we wanted to manipulate the Argentine Supreme Court."

In an effort to explain his party's position at the national level, between the right (Alsogaray) and those groups that are identified with Saul Ubaldini's preachings, he

explained that his party is placed on a third line, "first, because it is right wing and second because it is an anachronistic project."

Alfonsin said society has now assumed its responsibility and is facing the crisis, because, he said, during our administration no one assumed the responsibility and everything has been attributed to the errors or the responsibilities of the government."

He added: "Now, we all know there is a crisis. When this happens it is obvious that a collective effort must be made, but it is also obvious that if we live in a social democracy the most important efforts must be made by those who have more resources, that is by those who own more."

The former president explained, within the framework of South America, the need for an agreement, saying "political parties must seek common denominators and work jointly to defend the interests of the people they represent."

He said: "We must have firm objectives that must be achieved only through a joint action. If this does not happen we will have to live through a period that will surely involve some generations as in the coupist period, until we can consolidate a democracy with no conditions whatsoever, as experienced during our administration. If not, a very clear decline will take place."

When consulted about the political pact, Alfonsin admitted difficulties will be encountered in reaching an agreement, because he said: "I have the impression the government does not want an agreement."

He said, however, "we must insist, but under no circumstances must we sign an adherence contract because this is by no means the objective of the UCR, and we must correct those things we consider inappropriate, that are not correct, especially in the social field, because there are measures that are considered conservative and unnecessary, and they unnecessarily jeopardize our people."

Alfonsin added that although the government "has apparently achieved some objectives," it has not yet achieved a political pact, something that "is very difficult to obtain."

The UCR leader said it is paradoxical that "when we were the government we had a systematic and obstructionist opposition, and now that we are a constructive opposition, we are suffering the opposition and the offenses of the government."

When asked for an opinion regarding possible results of the elections to be held in 1995, he enthusiastically answered: "We are going to win. The next president will be a UCR candidate."

Justice Bacque Resigns Over Court Expansion

PY1804171690 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 18 Apr 90 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN)—The resignation of justice Jorge Bacque has left a three-member Supreme Court while the incorporation of new members was awaited, following the recent increase in the number of justices ruled by a congressional law.

Bacque resigned in disagreement with the expansion of the five-member court to nine on Monday, the same day the law increasing the size of the court appeared in the Official Gazette.

The government has already appointed Mariano Cavagna Martinez, Ricardo Levene Jr., Rodolfo Barra and Julio Nazareno as new justices but these appointments have not been confirmed by the Senate yet.

Another justice appointed by the executive, Julio Oyhanarte, has not taken his seat although his appointment has been approved by the Upper House.

Presidential Legal and Technical Secretary Raul Granillo Ocampo, Justice Undersecretary Cesar Arias and legal expert Ernesto Corvalan Manclares were tipped to succeed Bacque. The Radical Party criticized the progovernment shape the court is taking in light of the new appointees' political background.

Bacque, 67, a longtime professor at the University of Buenos Aires Law School, was apointed to the court in 1985 by former President Raul Alfonsin. This appointment was later confirmed by the Peronist-dominated Senate.

Education and Justice Minister Antonio Salonia, for his part, praised Bacque calling him "an honest and prestigious magistrate" while Supreme Court Chief Justice Enrique Petracchi regretted his colleague's departure and warned that the court will not be able to rule while in a minority and therefore will be forced to request a joint judge.

In related news, former Chief Justice Jose Severo Caballero was summoned for tomorrow by the Lower House to be questioned as part of the investigations carried out into the police case involving Chief Justice Augusto Belluscio, in what appears another step towards the impeachment of the body's senior member.

Belluscio has been criticized in connection with lawyer Mirta Schwartzman's suicide in Paris last year.

New Military Industries President Appointed

PY1804123890 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2215 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Apr (TELAM)—Defense Minister Humberto Romero has appointed the current under secretary for defense production, Colonel Jean Charles Uranga, retired, as the new military industries president

to replace General Pablo Skalany, who tendered his resignation from this post one month ago.

According to Defense Ministry sources, Uranga will keep his duties as under secretary for defense production and will assume his new post this week after President Carlos Menem signs the pertinent decree.

Julio Dentone Named New Defense Under Secretary

PY1804155890 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1506 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Apr (TELAM)—The executive branch has appointed Julio Dentone as defense under secretary. Dentone replaces Omar Vaquir.

Defense Minister Humberto Romero will install Dentone during a ceremony at 1800 [2100 GMT] at the Defense Ministry.

Bolivia

Commander Says Troops Only Training in Chapare

PY1804143890 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] General Jorge Moreira, Armed Forces commander in chief, has said the incursion of Army troops in the Chapare region should not alarm peasants because the troops are only conducting training exercises. Gen. Moreira added that the presence in the region of 7th Army Division troops is only temporary.

Gen. Moreira said the presence of troops in the Chapare region does not mean the Armed Forces are participating in the fight on drug trafficking. Gen. Moreira added that they are routine operations within the framework of Army training programs. Gen. Moreira asked coca producer peasants not to be fooled about rumors distorting the real meaning of the Army movements in the region.

Possible Militarization Concerns Yungas Peasants

PY1804040690 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Peasants from Yungas are in a state of emergency due to the possible militarization of the coca producing area. This information was released by (Augusto Tecos), leader of the Yungas Peasant Workers Federation. He said that this sector is awaiting a solution to the problem.

[Begin Tecos recording] This is the great concern that is spreading in the areas of Yungas in La Paz. We expect that this situation will be resolved as soon as possible. We want to prevent any type of incident. They talk about eradication and replacement. But to meet these objectives we should talk about development under the coca replacement programs, and this has not occurred thus far. [end recording]

Paz Zamora Notes Progress on Ecological Front

PY1804134890 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] President Jaime Paz Zamora said yesterday that Bolivia must show the world the efforts it is making to preserve the world ecology. The president added the government decision to forbid the cutting of forests for five years in tropical areas is a great effort that must be recognized by the EC through an increase in the cooperation it grants Bolivia.

Paz Zamora said the purpose of his visit to Europe is to talk about the country's need for cooperation in different fields. The proposal of coca for development will be one of the items in the president's agenda during his meetings with the presidents of Spain, Belgium, and Italy, and EC representatives.

We have to sell these proposals in Europe, the president emphasized, adding that European countries have been cooperating with Bolivia for a long time. Now we will try to interest them in other development projects for which we need soft, long term credits, Paz added.

The president said he will depart on 21 April and that the government is carefully analyzing the agenda. Paz Zamora will restrict his official activities in the next few days to concentrate on reviewing documents on the issues he will discuss in Spain, Belgium, and Italy.

Paz Zamora To Depart on European Trip 21 Apr

PY1904023290 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] The FIDES news agency has reported during a tour of Spain, Belgium, and Italy, President Paz Zamora will meet with King Juan Carlos, Queen Sofia, King Baudouin, Pope John Paul II, Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, and Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, among other dignitaries. Paz Zamora will leave Bolivia at 1430 on 21 April.

The Foreign Ministry has reported that Paz Zamora will arrive in Madrid on Sunday, 22 April, on a commercial flight. He will begin his official visit on 23 April. On Sunday, however, he will meet with Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez and will hold a news conference.

At noon on 23 April, King Juan Carlos will pay a visit to Paz Zamora at his residence, from where they will go the La Zarzuela Palace, where they will have a private lunch. At 1700, he will hold the first working meeting with leaders of Felipe Gonzalez' government.

Brazil

Collor Will Not Attend Nicaraguan Inauguration

PY1904003090 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] President Fernando Collor de Mello canceled his trip to Nicaragua to attend the inauguration of President-elect Violeta Chamorro, after considering that issues of national interest demand his presence in Brazil at this time to manage the economic stabilization plan, now at an important stage of consolidating results and resuming development.

For that reason, President Collor de Mello instructed Vice President Itamar Franco to represent him and to head the Brazilian delegation at the inauguration of the Nicaraguan president-elect.

This announcement was made by Social Communications Secretary of the Presidency Claudio Humberto Rosa e Silva, who noted no new development forced the trip's cancellation; the only reason is the president's decision not to leave the country for three days next week.

Government Seeks To Improve U.S. Relations

PY1904000090 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Apr 90 p 4

[Text] Brasilia—Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek plans to go to Washington, probably early in May. The objective of his visit is to begin a new stage in U.S.-Brazilian relations. In Washington he will meet U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. "Our talk must be open, friendly, and cordial," Rezek said during a news conference held yesterday.

This does not mean, Rezek pointed out, that Brazil will reconsider its positions on the environment, international law, and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons treaty which are the traditional points of conflict in relations with the United States. The effort to improve relations with the United States is the first step of Collor's administration to approach the most industrialized countries. Rezek gave his assurance that the new Brazilian Government will not reject Third World countries, but that it wants to sit at the table with First World countries. The first step to improve U.S.-Brazilian relations was taken by Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello and by U.S. Trade Representative Carla A. Hills in Washington. Zelia urged the U.S. high-ranking official to temporarily suspend the deadlock imposed by the United States on Brazilian products. During his visit, Rezek will emphasize to Baker the need to promote a thorough and constructive dialogue between the two countries.

Rezek told journalists that President Collor wants to avoid new conflicts in commercial relations with the United States, the main individual partner in the Brazilian foreign trade. During past Brazilian administrations there has been serious friction in the computer, pharmaceutical, and shoe industries, and over authors' copyrights. He said he has been ordered to avoid friction but not to jeopardize independence.

The Brazilian Government promised to handle the ecological matter, yet maintain its sovereignty. "This is a priority matter for our government," Rezek said. He said President Collor wants to prevent ecology groups and parties from Europe and the United States from continuing to exploit ecological problems in Brazil with electoral objectives.

Rezek stressed the traditional position of Brazilian diplomacy regarding the principles of respect for international law and the sovereignty of nations. Proof of this is that Brazil will continue to disagree with attitudes of the U.S. Government over matters like the presence of war ships in Colombian territorial waters under the pretext of the struggle against drug trafficking.

* Ozires on Privatization, Alcohol Crisis

90SM0002A Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 14 Mar 90 p 6

[Interview with Ozires Silva by Joao Borges, with Maria Aparecida Damasco, Fernando Barros, David Renault, Jocimar Mastari, Luiz Claudio Cunha, Mirian Leitao, and Ribamar Oliveira; place and date not given]

[Text] Brasilia—Ozires Silva can talk for more than 2 hours about his plans for the Ministry of Infrastructure, of which he will become the head tomorrow, without ever mentioning any project, however small, which he will carry out during his administration. Instead of discussing monumental projects and works that have characterized the areas with which he will deal in the new ministry, Ozires Silva prefers to explain his ideas on how he plans to put the house in order before launching expenditures.

Insofar as it is up to him, the era of the classic separation between the so-called spending ministers—those who want to execute projects at any cost in order to claim the resulting political dividends—and the others who are responsible for safeguarding the treasury coffers, has ended. The new minister seems to support the idea that prior to combating inflation in earnest, investment plans should be curtailed.

Ozires favors the elimination of the Special Secretariat for the Control of State Enterprises (SEST). "The state enterprises functioned very well before it existed," he says. The future minister plans to transfer a number of the state enterprises to Brasilia. He mentions Eletrobras [Brazilian Electric Power Company, Inc.], but at the same time he notes that Eletronorte [Northern Electric Power Plants], which is located in Brasilia and has 4,000

employees, could very well be moved to the region which is its reason for existence—Belem, in the northern part of the country.

No change can be contemplated for Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation], which is protected by a constitutional provision. Ozires believes that Petrobras Distribution and Braspetro [Petrobras International, Inc.] should be excluded from the process of privatization because they are key tools for the proper functioning of the holding company. Petroquisa [Petrobras Chemical Corporation] is a special case. Its transfer to the private sector would require changes in the the stockholders' agreements signed with domestic and foreign enterprises when the petrochemical centers were established. "The rest could be privatized," he said in an interview granted to AGENCIA ESTADO 2 days before his scheduled installation as head of the ministry which controls the principal state enterprises, which have a total of about 600,000 employees.

In order to resolve the problems pertaining to the Brazilian highway system, the congestion in the telecommunications networks, the shortage of alcohol, and the prospect of energy rationing, Ozires will rely on realistic rates, excellent administration, and when there is no constitutional restriction upon it, both domestic and foreign private capital. He says that the president of Petrobras should be someone from outside the enterprise cadres.

[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO] Have you already familiarized yourself with the state enterprises you will be taking over? What are your plans?

[Ozires] It is not a question of becoming familiar with them. Everyone has followed my administration in Petrobras, and they saw that I did not manage the enterprise. The patrimony of the state enterprises belongs to the Brazilian people. This patrimony should be more sacred than private capital itself. We must render accountings, and we must prevent deterioration. We cannot have joint management by the direct administration and the state enterprises. We need to assume a position more like that of a stockholder than a comanager. For example, I oppose a SEST which is a secretariat which intervenes in company operations, rather than checking on them. All of the state enterprises are doing badly. As Rockefeller said, the second best business in the world is badly managed oil. Today we have a Petrobras which is practically bankrupt. This shows that there has been something wrong in this control process. In my opinion, these are enterprises which need better management.

[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO] Will the SEST cease to exist, then?

[Ozires] The state enterprises were tremendously successful before the SEST existed. Direct administration is not intended for this purpose. The task for which it is needed is the regulation of companies, of how they are functioning.

[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO] Do you believe that the SEST should cease to exist, or that it will?

[Ozires] This is a part of Minister Zelia's program, and so it would be better to ask her.

[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO] During your administration, will the state enterprises be free to establish wage policies?

[Ozires] No enterprise is free to establish wage policy. This is established by the stockholders. They establish the rules of the game, and the executives implement it. This is the way it is in any private company.

[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO] What we are seeing today is equal wage treatment for all the enterprises.

[Ozires] I have great respect for the courts, but I believe that isonomy is a very foolish thing, because individual situations differ. We should give everyone an equal starting point, and, as happens in a race, some will be winners. We cannot have a race in which everyone wins. The level of compensation needs to be proportional to the talent of the employee.

[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO] What would you do in a situation, for example, in which the employees of Vale do Rio Doce demanded the same benefits as the employees of Petrobras?

[Ozires] This would be very difficult, because the legislation in Brazil endorses the principle of isonomy. And there is no scheme for getting around the law, because it must be observed. We will wage a long-term effort for the correction of the legal system. Experience shows that it has produced nefarious results.

[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO] Do you plan to give Petrobras the freedom to establish prices?

[Ozires] I have never protested the establishment of Petrobras prices by the National Council for Petroleum (CNP). I protested against the Ministry of Finance, which was in the end using Petrobras as a tool for combating inflation. I said that this was having no effect, as has been proven today. The government causes inflation by means of financial mechanisms, with its right hand, while trying to limit it by controlling the prices for the government enterprises, with its left. But I also believe that the control of the Petrobras prices is the fairest counterpart to the monopoly it enjoys. What I also was unable to accept was the lack of any personnel policy. When there were movements involving the employees, the direct administration intervened, and I was alone in speaking out.

[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO] The legislation makes it clear that Petrobras and its enterprises cannot be touched. What is there in Petrobras that could be privatized?

[Ozires] We could hold a brief seminar now to discuss whether the state monopoly on oil is valid or not. But we

reject a monopoly in private hands, at the outset. Petrobras cannot be handed over to the private sector, because it exercises a monopoly on oil on behalf of the union. I now and henceforth refuse to discuss the possibility of depriving Petrobras of the tools which could enable it to become a successful company. Therefore, Petrobras Distribution needs to follow the rules of the stock market, as it is the commercial branch of Petrobras. Braspetro, as well, needs to follow the guidelines for a holding company, or otherwise we would be removing the tools which make the exercise of the monopoly possible. Therefore neither Braspetro nor Petrobras Distribution, along with the holding company, can be transferred to the private sector. This would be possible for the other enterprises in the group. We must take a little more care in transferring Petroquisa to the private sector, because the interests of and agreements with foreign and domestic stockholders of the enterprise are involved.

[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO] The Sarney government voiced protests about the intensive bureaucratic activity involved in the process of privatization. Will you have time to carry out what has been planned?

[Ozires] I simply must. My experience with privatization has been very sad. In the course of my long professional career, I have attempted to transfer two enterprises to the private sector, and, nearly dead with fatigue, I failed to achieve the goal. In one case, with Engematic [not further expanded], after exhausting ourselves, we gave up, because we could not succeed in transferring it to the private sector. I truly do not know what the rules of the game will be. We will propose a formula to the legislative branch about which I cannot speak now, because we will have to discuss it with the Congress. We will propose a simpler formula. I believe that the Congress may create some obstacles, or it may approve it in full. We will propose an honest formula, but one which in fact allows the sale of state enterprises. As a general principle, we will be totally faithful to the Constitution.

[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO] Will the ports be privatized?

[Ozires] With regard to the ports, there is the matter of tradition. In the most developed countries, there is a port authority, an institution involved in the customs, shipping, and health systems. We do not have that concept in Brazil. When the time comes to transfer the ports to the private sector, we will need to think about the legal aspects in these other sectors which play a role in the functioning of the ports. Who knows? We might adopt this port authority principle in Brazil, covering everything which occurs in the ports, just as the airport authorities do.

[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO] What would be the simple formula of which you speak? Would it involve the use of legal mechanisms for the privatization process?

[Ozires] A simple formula means a process agreed upon by the executive and legislative branches, for which there will be clear guidelines so that the government can proceed in the desired direction.

[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO] The Sarney government financed the privatization process. Will the new government use the same mechanism?

[Ozires] No. We must consider two methods of financing. One of them would be to provide money so that private capital can maintain investments and revolving funds. We are not considering this method as a possibility. We could contemplate financing in terms of installment payments by the group which has purchased a state enterprise. This would avoid expenditures from the treasury, or by the government financing organs.

[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO] What about the use of the foreign debt conversion mechanism?

[Ozires] I believe conversion to be essential. But this entails bringing in foreign capital, and there we will have to establish limits and conditions. In any case, each enterprise is a separate case.

[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO] Mr Minister, at present there is a shortage of alcohol, the telephones are silent, the roads are full of potholes, and there is the prospect of rationing of electricity. What plans have you for resolving all of these problems?

[Ozires] If we look at the income from public rates today, we will see that the rates are out of phase, to an extent that cannot be measured accurately. Talking with Minister Zelia, I told her that I would make the greatest effort to avoid pressure on the treasury, so that she can combat inflation. This will be the first priority of the government. There will be a very great effort to improve the assets of the system.

[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO] Is the present government responsible for incompetent management of the state enterprises?

[Ozires] I would not say there is a lack of competence. There has been bad management because of government interference. We cannot say that an enterprise like Petrobras is incompetent.

[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO] Is what you want, then, realistic rates?

[Ozires] Yes, but we will have to deal with this rate reality within an inflationary context, which is extremely difficult. The state enterprises are constantly out of phase with regard to rates. Let us assume that inflation will be zero tomorrow. Within this framework, it is possible that the rates we have today will be adequate. Thus, we are relying on the fact that the probable decline in inflation will enrich the wage earners and the enterprises. The Cruzado Plan showed this, even if only for a short period. Furthermore, we will make use of the participation of the private sector, and also foreign

capital, insofar as possible. But I want to emphasize that these last two resources are not a panacea for resolving our problems.

[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO] What is your assessment of the crisis where the supply of alcohol and Proalcool [Alcohol Production Program] are concerned?

[Ozires] Proalcool was planned and created within a scenario when two things which did not come about were hoped for—first, that oil would be costing some $60 per barrel today, and second, that alcohol would replace oil. Today we see that oil costs $18, and alcohol is replacing gasoline. We can find every imaginable explanation for this, and we can blame the government. But this is unimportant. The milk has already been spilled, and this is our situation today. On the other hand, with oil at $18 per barrel, it is not possible for the producer of alcohol to produce it at the price of gasoline. If we were to adopt a market solution today, liberating fuel prices, alcohol would be more expensive than gasoline. We have two possible paths, then—continuation of the program under the current conditions, which would make it necessary for us to supplement the price of alcohol, and supplementation recalls that word—subsidy—which has begun to seem ugly. And here we would have to determine where the resources for the subsidy would come from, and how much it should be. We would have to control these two aspects, for otherwise we would move toward a more inflationary process. The second path would involve granting subsidies on lower levels than those needed, and there we would have to find a solution for the 4 million vehicles operating on alcohol. We could provide incentives for saving on alcohol. Saving does not enjoy great prestige here in Brazil. There is waste. The whole world has begun to save on oil since the 1973 crisis.

[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO] The government has always been a great inductive force for investment. Could there be other ways of resuming growth, without this model?

[Ozires] There can be and there should be. It is not the role of the government to manage national wealth by direct investment. We accepted this for many long years, and the process soon demonstrated that it did not work. We must change the country in the direction of making the citizen more important than the government, and establishing the profile of the servant of the public. The consumer is more important than the producers. The government needs to see the consumer-taxpayer as a customer, not merely as a source of taxes.

[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO] The electrical energy sector is supposed to receive $7 billion in investments annually, according to the plans of the Collor government. How much of this total is supposed to come from the private sector?

[Ozires] That is very difficult to predict. There are many businessmen interested in getting into this area. Except that they are exhausted before they begin, because of the bureaucracy. If we eliminate this hindrance, businessmen will begin to get into the generation of electrical energy. We are not going to resolve the problems of the country merely by "revoking the provisions to the contrary." We will have to change some attitudes.

[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO] In the United States, it is usual to have roads and other services in private hands, and they even collect tolls. Do you regard the adoption of this system in Brazil as a possibility?

[Ozires] It is a possibility, why not? And there are people who want this.

[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO] Do you believe that it would be possible for private business to take charge of all of the investments needed?

[Ozires] I do not, because Brazil has a very heavy social demand. For years and years, the government took money from the taxpayers and put it into unimportant sectors, neglecting the protection of the citizens. In Brazil, the perception that the government can regulate the lives of the citizens better than they can themselves developed. I have already heard this lamented.

In the data-processing area, I have heard that because of the SEI [Special Secretariat of Computer Science], many businessmen refrained from making investments, and later regretted it.

[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO] Will Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] be transferred to the private sector?

[Ozires] I am beginning to take a long view of Embraer, and it hurts me that it is subordinate to the Ministry of Air. When we undertook to establish Embraer in 1968, the idea was to create a private enterprise. This effort failed, because no businessman wanted to invest in a domestic aviation project. But now, thanks to its international success, it is ready to return to its origins.

[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO] What will the fate of the nuclear program be under the Collor government?

[Ozires] This is a very complicated matter. I do not know, and I have no answer. But after spending $8 billion on a program, it should already have shown what it has done. Brazil still has an excellent potential for generating hydroelectric energy.

Chile

Army Denies Remarks Attributed to Pinochet

PY1804132290 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] The Army Public Relations Department has categorically denied remarks with political connotations attributed to General Augusto Pinochet, current Army commander and former president, referring to human rights violations in a newspaper report. The Army can

make use of the legal right to defend itself against this type of action that seeks to discredit some people and institutions.

A second communique released by the Army Public Relations Department refers to an incident that took place in the Military School of Engineers in Penas Verdes, near San Antonio, when an individual who secretly entered the place, was killed.

The communique states the individual was near the house of the director of the military engineering school when he was discovered by a sentry who ordered him to stop and identify himself. However, the unidentified individual attacked the guard who used his service weapon and shot the assailant. The man was later identified as Victor Ernesto Ortiz Vargas. Ortiz Vargas died after the incident, and the school commander ordered the appropriate measures in compliance to current rules.

Rojas States CNI Records at Disposal of Courts

PY1804212090 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Patricio Rojas stated the records and the names of agents of the defunct National Information Center, CNI, are at the disposal of the courts. He made this statement at La Moneda Palace after an interior security meeting with representatives of the Carabineros, the director of the Investigative Police, and ministers of the political sector.

Rojas also referred to the report published by EL SIGLO, regarding the list of CNI agents who worked during the military regime. Any information on the CNI must be provided by the Defense Ministry, he said. The former agents of that organization have been transferred to the Army National Intelligence Directorate, DINA. [passage omitted]

Minister Rojas added former agents of the CNI who have been transferred to the DINA are not carrying out political intelligence tasks, according to guarantees he received from the Army. [passage omitted]

Minister Correa Evaluates New Administration

PY1804165290 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 8 Apr 90 pp 3, 4

[Interview with Minister Secretary General of Government Enrique Correa by Raul Rojas; place and date not given]

[Text] [Rojas] On the one-month anniversary of the government, how do you evaluate it: positively or negatively?

[Correa] Positively, of course, because first of all we established normal operations for the democratic regime. I believe we have given signs to inspire the confidence of the people; we have shown this is a government of everyone for everyone. We have dispelled any doubt that the state and government might be operating for special interests. I believe we have established an environment for dialogue in the country. One proof of that was the dialogue between workers and businessmen, in which the government is now participating. In addition, agreements have been reached with National Renewal, the main opposition, on tax reforms.

I believe we have established normal links with Congress. The country is pleased to see ministers discussing important national issues with congressional representatives.

I believe we have established a new environment in the country and would like to have done more. We are in a transition period. It has not been an easy transition. We had to face many problems and deal with specific situations, some of which were difficult. In my particular case, I had to work with the general director of National Television on the heavy burden we inherited from the previous administration. Every minister had to face problems of this type.

[Rojas] Do you agree with the interior minister that the problems are fewer than they once were and fewer than expected?

[Correa] Yes, I believe at one time there was an idea that our powers were going to be curtailed. The truth is that we still must progress significantly in the use of our powers. However, we are ready to fulfill our mission. We have the power and legal means to go on as we planned. Therefore, I see no great obstacles in our way.

It is also important to note that such a significant issue as the tax reform did not create controversy but became an issue on which we agreed.

[Rojas] As a result of the problems between the government and the judicial branch, you made an effort to emphasize there was no crisis or impasse. Are you not trying to play down the seriousness of the situation?

[Correa] I believe there was a difference of opinion between the executive and the judicial branches of government, and as the justice minister said, there was a difference of opinion between the executive branch and the head of the judicial branch. What I tried to say was that it was not a disagreement involving the entire judicial branch, because the Supreme Court decision was not unanimous. Furthermore, it does not involve the entire judicial body, because the criticisms made by the president of the Republic about the current administration of justice were very well received by the members of the judges' congress in Pucon, who even gave him an ovation.

It is a difference of opinion. The government is going to submit to Congress a bill on the administration of justice. The bill will be open to democratic debate. I believe all agree on the need for a debate on this issue.

That agreement shows there is a crisis in the administration of justice in Chile. This is admitted by all political parties, by the Coalition of Parties for Democracy, National Renewal, and the UDI [Independent Democratic Union]. In the talks we held, the parties all shared the same position regarding the crisis.

[Rojas] If the executive branch says there is a crisis in the judicial branch, why does the Supreme Court deny it? Are the members of the court stubborn?

[Correa] No, they only have a different opinion. They believe their action has been correct, their administration of justice was appropriate, and there is no crisis. That opinion contradicts the position of the government and of all the political parties represented in the government.

[Rojas] But frankly speaking, do you not see the Supreme Court as an enemy or adversary?

[Correa] No, we do not see anyone as an enemy. We cannot see a state branch as an adversary either. This is not the way we see the relations between the institutions of the Republic.

[Rojas] Do you not think the ultraleftist sectors have been trying to overwhelm the government from the first day of its inauguration?

[Correa] There are sectors that agree on the need to enjoy the environment of democratic coexistence we created. There may be efforts to overwhelm the government but the government has the power and will to carry out its work and not be overwhelmed by anybody.

[Rojas] Does this mean the government will not hesitate to enforce the law whether they are ultraleftists or ultrarightists?

[Correa] Our task is to enforce the law and we will do it at any cost.

[Rojas] What is your opinion on the attitude of the political prisoners and their relatives during the first month of this government?

[Correa] I believe there is a great understanding in the government about the drama of political prisoners. We hoped there would be no political prisoners. We understand the lack of patience of the people in prison. But we also asked them to understand the government, which is seeking a solution to their problems. It sought a solution through pardons which did not benefit many. It also sought a solution through legal reforms. From that point of view, understanding the human drama they are experiencing and the natural impatience of their relatives, the government has the first obligation to enforce the law, and to act through the legal and institutional channels.

[Rojas] Have the government's requests for understanding had any responses?

[Correa] I believe we can count on the majority and their relatives' understanding.

[Rojas] Do you then believe attitudes reflected by events such as hunger strikes and others will be overcome?

[Correa] These attitudes are not found in all political prisoners. I do expect these attitudes to change, because they are not the language to seek understanding with the government.

[Rojas] The topic of political prisoners is linked to human rights. Do you believe the courts in Chile have shown concern for resolving human rights violations?

[Correa] Many cases have not been clarified. I would not want to pass judgment on the judiciary branch's motivation. I can only say that the judiciary branch's record as far as results are concerned is not impressive.

[Rojas] How do you see the economic situation? Some sectors have expressed concern over the tax reform; they even affirm that it will hold back the economy.

[Correa] I do not think so. We have a basic agreement with the National Renewal Party regarding tax reform. So, we cannot say the opposition considers the tax reform a serious mistake, because the main opposition party supports the reform. Also the parties in the Coalition support it. There is a congressional majority to approve the reform. The truth is that the reform we are in the process of implementing is quite moderate. By international standards, 15 percent of profits is quite low. Also we are reinstating tax percentages similar to those the old regime had and even to those in the positive moments of the economic situation. So I don't believe there can be alarm over tax reform. Moreover, we are all aware that democratic stability presupposes effective social policies and that they have to be paid for by all of us.

[Rojas] The new government has been in power one month, and the U.F. [unit of account adjusted for inflation] is still a monster with a thousand heads.

[Correa] We have a commitment to seek U.F. solutions for debtors. During the electoral campaign, Patricio Aylwin set forth the proposal that legal measures should be implemented so that at no time will the monthly installments exceed 25 percent of income.

[Rojas] Do you believe the government's supporters should be disappointed or restless because no rapid solution has been given to this and other problems?

[Correa] I believe all Chileans, and naturally the government's supporters, have mixed feelings, a feeling of impatience for things to change combined with a feeling of understanding toward a government that is perceived to have the will to resolve problems. I do not believe in one month's time, impatience is prevailing over understanding.

[Rojas] What do you think of the opposition's behavior during this period?

[Correa] It is realistic, mature, and pragmatic. However, I would like to comment on some rumors that are being spread and which have surprised me very much. There has been widespread criticism and exaggerated charges of political persecution in some ministries and government organizations. I believe this is unfounded. On the contrary, the current administration has not been able to reorganize its services. I, myself, have not been able to hire aides and this has occurred to all other ministers. This rumor is entirely unfounded. I wish those who made these comments had thought a little more before uttering them.

[Rojas] Do you not have problems in justifying dismissals?

[Correa] In my ministry, I have been responsible for the dismissal of Television Nacional employees. Nothing else could have been done in this regard. The only way to make Television Nacional profitable is to reduce the number of its employees, to assign it government funds to pay its debts, and to adopt creative measures that can again make it into a popular part of the media.

[Rojas] Some people say, however, they did not expect this government to dismiss lots of people.

[Correa] Not many persons have been dismissed. Most of the personnel dismissed were the mainstay of the previous regime and had to be replaced by the ministers because they had to reorganize their cadres. We will combine two principles in our management of the public administration. On one hand, we want signs of stability, because we do not want police raids, nor reshuffling of the public administration every time a new government is installed. On the other hand, we claim the right to appoint trusted aides, people the government officials and the president have special confidence in.

[Rojas] What do you think of the Armed Forces' behavior during this administration's first month in power?

[Correa] Its behavior toward the government has been normal and institutional-like, similar to the government's behavior toward the Armed Forces.

[Rojas] President Aylwin has said the two institutions are becoming more integrated.

[Correa] I believe cooperation between the two sectors has increased and this is good for the country.

[Rojas] Within this framework, do you not believe it is negative that a MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] spokesman asserts they will continue to possess weapons and that their objective is to oust Patricio Aylwin's government?

[Correa] We not only reject Mr. Jorge Palma's statement, but also believe this type of statement harms the country, hinders the democratic process, and increases the atmosphere of distrust we are trying to avoid.

[Rojas] Do you believe the country is really advancing toward reconciliation, towards a national accord?

[Correa] I am sure it is. This is evident through the new relations between workers and businessmen, between the administration and parliament, and between the administration and the opposition. It shows the country is ready for a mature, democratic coexistence. I believe the angry remarks of the fanatics will not hinder nor interrupt this goal for which all Chileans yearn.

[Rojas] After one month in the government, do you feel confident to ask the Chileans to trust the new administration?

[Correa] I am absolutely certain the Chileans can count on a friendly government that is close to all of its citizens.

[Rojas] What can the poorest sectors of society count on?

[Correa] The government is doing its best to solve the most urgent problems of the poorest strata of society. Through an economic system in which the private sector is preponderant—and no one wants to change that—the fiscal reform is aimed at introducing, as John Paul II asked us to, the principles of solidarity with the destitute.

Editorial Lauds Significance of Bush's Visit

PY1704182790 Santiago FORTIN MAPOCHO in Spanish 7 Apr 90 p 11

[Editorial: "Bush's Trip to Chile"]

[Text] Through his spokesman, U.S. President George Bush announced he will visit Chile in September. This very important political event demonstrates the extent of the change that has occurred in the country since the 14 December 1989 elections.

The isolation has been broken after a 16-year period, and important world personalities are beginning to visit us.

Italy considered Chile to be one of its first priorities for economic aid and trade. Relations between our country and Bulgaria resumed on Friday after 16 years of dictatorship. Previously, other socialist countries took the same path, and it was only a few days ago when the Mexican president visited our capital to confirm that links had been resumed between the two nations.

In General Pinochet's opinion, Chile was at war for the 16 years of the dictatorship. Curiously, the alleged allied camp, the Western countries through their chiefs of state, refused to talk with him or extend him invitations. Furthermore, it was considered disgraceful to have any links with the reigning regime that had violated every type of human right according to 16 sentences handed down by the United Nations.

For the United States, relations with Chile were annoying and that country made it known. The dictatorship's commandos travelled to Washington to kill Orlando Letelier. For this operation they violated borders and laws with false passports to conduct this terrorist act that is still considered a black mark against Chilean justice.

Never in the history of Chilean-U.S. relations have things been so low as during the past 16 years.

Only in light of this background data can the importance of George Bush's visit be evaluated. All this marks the beginning of a new era with the re-instatement of our nation to the place it has always historically occupied, the recovery of our influence, and the importance of this country's future commitments.

Bush's visit is the most visible demonstration that "the wars" have ended and that international policies are today built on the basis of understanding and cooperation.

Naval Commanders From 16 Countries To Meet

PY1704164690 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0119 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Santiago, 16 Apr (EFE)—Rear Admiral Oscar Vidal, chief of Chile's 1st Naval Zone, reported today the Navy commanders in chief of 16 countries of the region will meet in Chile between 23 and 28 April to study "security at sea."

Representatives from the Navies of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, United States of America, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela will participate in the meeting.

Chilean Defense Minister Patricio Rojas and other authorities of Patricio Aylwin's civilian government will participate in the opening day ceremonies.

Admiral Jorge Martinez Bush, Chilean Navy commander in chief who took command on 8 March [words indistinct] Rear Admiral Vidal reported.

Foreign Ministry: No Ambassador to South Africa

PY1704225590 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 9 Apr 90 p C 3

[Excerpt] The Chilean Foreign Ministry will not ask the South African Government to approve the designation of a Chilean ambassador in that country.

The bilateral relations will be maintained at the level of charge d'affaires and the duties will be handled by the minister counselor of the Chilean Embassy in South Africa.

Foreign Ministry sources said no other decision will be made in this regard until the situation in South Africa has significantly changed.

The sources added the situation has really improved and apartheid is being overcome.

The sources said the independence of Namibia is regarded as an important and significant step, and for this reason Chilean Ambassador to the United Nations Juan Somavia was instructed to attend the ceremony in which Namibian independence was signed.

"The situation in South Africa is improving and we are paying close attention to that," the sources added.

It was also said that the new Chilean authorities want to strengthen relations with African nations. [passage omitted]

Spanish Investors Buy More Shares in ENTEL

PY1704155890 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] The Spanish Telephone Company has purchased from the Army, through its branch office in Chile—Spanish-Chilean Investments Inc.—10 percent of the shares of the National Telecommunications Enterprise, ENTEL. With the 10 percent of Santander Bank shares and this purchase, the Spanish enterprise has increased its direct participation in ENTEL to 20 percent. The purchase price was $22.6 million, 131 pesos per share.

Cost Normalization Manager Sergio Villegas has confirmed that the operation was confirmed on 31 January 1990, in an irrevocable manner. Thus, it cannot be annulled. He added that both ENTEL and the Army wanted to revoke the operation, because it was set at a cost lower than the real value of Entel shares in the market, which amounts to 150 pesos.

One of the conditions of the operation was that the Spanish Telephone Company would not have more than 20 percent of the voting rights. This is the maximum percentage allowed to an individual shareholder by the enterprise's statutes. The Spanish Telephone Company recently purchased 49.2 percent of the Chilean Telephone Company from an Australian group.

The participation of this Spanish enterprise in the two main Chilean communications companies, has created a conflict that must be resolved by the National Economic Control Office. Some private companies claim that this situation represents a violation of the right to free competition, since it creates a monopoly. They have asked the authorities to order the Spanish Telephone Company to maintain their participation in only one of the two companies: either ENTEL or the telephone company. A decision by the National Economic Control Office is still pending.

New Air Force Promotions, Transfers Detailed

PY1804152490 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 7 Apr 90 p C-4

[Text] According to an Air Force spokesman, Air Force Brigadier General Patricio Cifuentes Trincado has taken over as commander of the 2d Air Brigade and of the Santiago Air Force Garrison.

Air Force Brigadier General Guillermo Aird Gajardo assumed command of the 3d Air Brigade, based in Puerto Mont, 10th Region. Aird Gajardo was promoted on 31 March 1990.

Air Force Brigadier General Lautaro Greenhell Morales has been transferred from Antofagasta (1st Air Brigade), to Santiago, where he took up a high ranking post on the Air Force Staff, which is headed by Air Force General Ramon Vega Hidalgo.

Greenhell's post has been occupied by Air Force Brigadier General Patricio Araya Ugalde.

It has been reported Air Force Brigadier Humberto Velazquez Estay is the only person who retired from the Air Force; he did so on 31 March. Velazquez Estay's post was filled by General Cifuentes.

Since last year Air Force General Rene Alzerreca de Cortazar has commanded the Logistics Department. He recently headed the commission that organized the 1990 International Air Show.

Colombia

Drug Lord Escobar Gaviria Draws Up 'Blacklist'

PA1704194290 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1631 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Bogota, 17 Apr (DPA)—Colombian authorities today disclosed that Pablo Escobar Gaviria, head of the Medellin cartel, who is known as the world's "cocaine king," has drawn up a "blacklist" of 27 drug traffickers who presumably have betrayed the criminal organization.

According to General Octavio Vargas Silva, commander of police operations, Escobar Gaviria's list forms part of the internal purge he ordered among his closest aides, a purge that has reportedly caused deep division within the Colombian mafia.

The possible differences among the drug lords became known two days ago when "The Extraditables," the mafia's armed group, issued a communique in which they disagreed with Escobar Gaviria about the recent terrorist actions he has ordered.

According to the communique, the "cocaine king" planned the 11 April action in which 20 civilians and policemen were killed when a powerful car bomb exploded as a patrol car passed in Itagui, northwestern Colombia.

Escobar Gaviria is apparently pressuring the other members of "The Extraditables" to obtain money and finance the new "war" he declared on the government, judges, and journalists several weeks ago.

Brigadier General Miguel Maza Marquez, chief of the Administrative Department of Security (DAS)—the secret police—today said that the opposition group in the cartel includes men who had been led by Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, also known as the "Mexican," who was killed by police in December.

That group, which had been led by Rodriguez Gacha, second in command of the Medellin cartel, who is believed to have been the most bloodthirsty criminal in the country's history, promoted the creation of extreme right-wing paramilitary groups, which are accused of carrying out terrorist actions against government officials and left-wing, peasant, and union leaders, among others.

Maza Marquez added: "We have reason to state that followers of the 'Mexican,' one of the main instigators of narcoterrorism, are aware that violence has become a boomerang for them."

After the recent attacks by the drug-trafficking mafias, such as the explosion of the car bomb and the killing of more than 30 policemen over the past two weeks in Medellin, the authorities increased their operations to find Escobar Gaviria.

The drug lord is sought by policemen and soldiers traveling in light and armored vehicles in Medellin and other nearby towns, an area where he has his headquarters.

Explanations Sought for Cache of Israeli Weapons

PA1904042090 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Bogota, 18 Apr (EFE)—Colombia has asked the Governments of Israel and Antigua and Barbuda for explanations of the entry into the country of an arsenal of weapons consigned to the late drug trafficker Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha (El Mexicano), and it is awaiting the investigation results from those countries.

The arsenal, made up of a total of 232 Galil AU, R-15, and R-16 rifles, all manufactured by the Israeli military industry, bears the seal of Antigua and Barbuda and was found by the Colombian Army between 26 January and 20 February at El Mexicano's Freddy I farm, in the rural area of Guaduas, Cundinamarca Department, 170 km west of Bogota.

The find prompted the Colombian Defense Ministry to request the Foreign Ministry to seek an explanation from the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda and Israel.

Colombian Defense Minister General Oscar Botero Restrepo issued a communique on 10 April saying that this request had been made on 5 February. The Defense

Ministry's declaration adds that the Colombian Foreign Ministry also requested explanations from the Israeli Embassy in Bogota, which replied in March that these arms had been sold by their country's military industry to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda. Once the Colombian Foreign Ministry received the Israeli reply, it protested to the Antigua and Barbuda Government through the OAS mission on 3 April and demanded an investigation.

General Botero Restrepo's communique also says that the Antigua and Barbuda Government has created a special committee headed by Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird to investigate why these weapons were shipped to Colombia.

The Israeli military-industry arms were sold to that island's government at the beginning of 1989. Some Colombian sources suppose they entered the country between August and October 1989. Some Colombian press media have reported during the last few days that the weapons entered the country from Antigua and Barbuda through Panama, and the customs manifests were changed at the port of Deep Water Harbour, Saint Johns, on Antigua.

Bogota's daily LA PRENSA, which uncovered the scandal some days ago, said that according to the INTERPOL report, relatives of Deputy Prime Minister Bird and high-ranking officials of Antigua and Barbuda are involved in gunrunning for the Colombian drug traffickers.

The Freddy I farm, where the weapons were found, is a large estate of 1,000 hectares and is occupied by the Colombian Army as part of the operations that followed the declaration of an all-out war by President Virgilio Barco on 18 August 1989. On that day Barco announced the reintroduction of the extradition of drug traffickers sought by U.S. authorities and the confiscation of property owned by the mafia.

El Mexicano, 42, died in a clash with police on 15 December 1989 together with his son Freddy, 18, on a road that links the Atlantic beach resorts of Tolu and Covenas, in the northeastern part of the country.

Rodriguez Gacha, well-known as the Medellin Cartel's military boss, was considered the main instigator of the dirty war against leaders of the Colombian left, especially the Patriotic Union (UP), and a sponsor of paramilitary groups.

Paraguay

President Rodriguez To Visit Only Taiwan

PY1704162290 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 17 Apr 90 p 8

[Excerpt] President Andres Rodriguez and a very small entourage will visit Taiwan on 18, 19, and 20 June. The president will make a stopover in California on the return trip.

The president has therefore set aside for the time being a possible visit to Japan and the ROK, as mentioned earlier. Yesterday morning, General Wan Sheng, Taiwan Ambassador to Paraguay, visited the president at Government House to coordinate details of the trip. [passage omitted]

Minister Says USSR Relations Could Resume

PY1804181890 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 18 Apr 90 p 18

[Text] Upon returning from the USSR, Education and Worship Minister Dionisio Gonzalez Torres said: "In Paraguay, several people—including myself—believe that our government could establish trade relations, to be followed by cultural and diplomatic relations, with the Soviet Union."

Minister Gonzalez said that during his visit the Soviet press showed great interest in our country and asked about General Rodriguez' revolutionary movement in Paraguay, the current situation in the country, and the possibility of its establishing relations with the USSR.

Together with American and European politicians, professors, and scientists, Minister Gonzalez was invited to attend a conference on glasnost and perestroyka.

Regarding the possibilities of Paraguay's establishing relations with the USSR, the minister said: "I am not authorized to comment on it because this is a highly political decision to be made by the government, but I personally believe that we could begin by establishing trade relations." He said that Paraguay produces tobacco, soybeans, and wheat; while the USSR produces machinery, technology, and oil that Paraguay must import.

"They are well-informed about Paraguay. The day after events occur here, they learn about them. They know that our judicial branch does not operate swiftly; they know about our political parties, about the tombs of the unidentified victims, and so forth," Minister Gonzalez said.

Regarding the positive results that his visit to the USSR will have for our country, the minister said: "The most important thing was to learn about their country, because they already know a great deal about ours. We have received detailed information on the current Soviet situation."

He said that during the conference they were told about all these details and that Gorbachev "had the courage to say" that Leninist-Stalinist Marxism has failed and that it should be updated "from the economic point of view. Particularly regarding the five-year plans and the insufficient agricultural production."

Regarding education in the USSR, Minister Gonzalez said that the entire educational system is in the hands of the state. "Instead of basing their activities on the average student, the schools pay special attention to

those who stand out in sports, dance, music, or any other cultural tendency. They grant them special education, scholarships, and a university career." Asked whether he will apply any of the Soviet ideas to the Paraguayan educational system, he said: "Our countries have nothing in common; our cultures are entirely different."

He also pointed out that Soviet television shows no sex or violence and that there is no cigarette or alcoholic beverage propaganda as in Latin America, because for many years, the Soviet government forbade that. There is currently no strict control over the television programs, but they have self-censorship.

Venezuela

Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Begins Visit

FL1704162190 Bridgetown CANA in English 1525 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Report by Andy Johnson]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 17, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson began a two-day state visit to Venezuela Tuesday [17 April] amid a souring of relations between both countries since Trinidad fishermen were shot in the Gulf of Paria on March 26.

Trinidad suspended talks on a joint venture in fisheries using the Port of Spain facilities of the National Fisheries Company, after fishermen claimed they were fired on by the Venezuelan Coast Guard. The Coast Guard countered that they actually went to the assistance of the fishermen who were in dificulties in forbidden areas of the Gulf.

A heads of agreement on the project was one of the items which would have been finalised during this visit but has had to be pushed back because of the suspended talks. [sentence as published] However, there are other issues which the prime minister and an official party which includes energy minister, Herbert Atwell, will conclude in the fourth meeting between Robinson and President Carlos Andres Perez since the Venezuelan leader came to power in February 1989 elections.

The prime minister is expected to sign agreements with the Venezuelan president dealing with such issues as a delimitation treaty between both countries. It is expected that follow-up discussions will also take place on a proposed agreement for Venezuela to supply crude oil for processing at Trinidad's refinery at Pointe-a-Pierre, south Trinidad. Venezuela is also interested in pursuing co-operation agreements with Trinidad and Tobago on matters of health.

Robinson will attend a number of official engagements during the next two days including a visit to the Caracas Town Council and a working session with Perez on Tuesday. He will be decorated with the Gran Cordon of the Liberator First Class, Venezuela's highest honour for a non-national.

On Wednesday [18 April], the prime minister and his party will visit the town of Ciudad Guayana for a look at the Raul Leoni Dam. He returns home on Thursday [19 April].

Since the March shooting incident the Ministry of External Affairs in Port of Spain has sent information to Caracas including evidence of gun shot wounds on one man and evidence of violence to the bodies of two others, asking that the authorities there determine who was responsible for this action.

A shooting incident last October resulted in the death of a Trinidadian fishing boat captain. An Organisation of American States (OAS) investigating team did not apportion blame on either side but urged the neighbouring countries to put in place mechanisms to deal with disputes occurring in shared fishing waters.